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Selective Synthesis of 6-Ribo- (and Xylo) Pyrano and Furano Aminopyrimidines¹. Anticancer and Anti-AIDS Activities

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SELECTIVE SYNTHESIS OF 6-RIBO- (AND XYLO) PYRANO AND FURANO AMINOPYRIMIDINES.¹ ANTICANCER AND ANTI-AIDS ACTIVITIES.[#]

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Abstract: The synthesis and the anticancer and anti-AIDS activity of some 6-ribo (and xylo) pyrano and furano aminopyrimidines have been carried out. Isomerization to ribopyranose has been observed when per-O-acyl ribofuranoses were deprotected under basic medium.

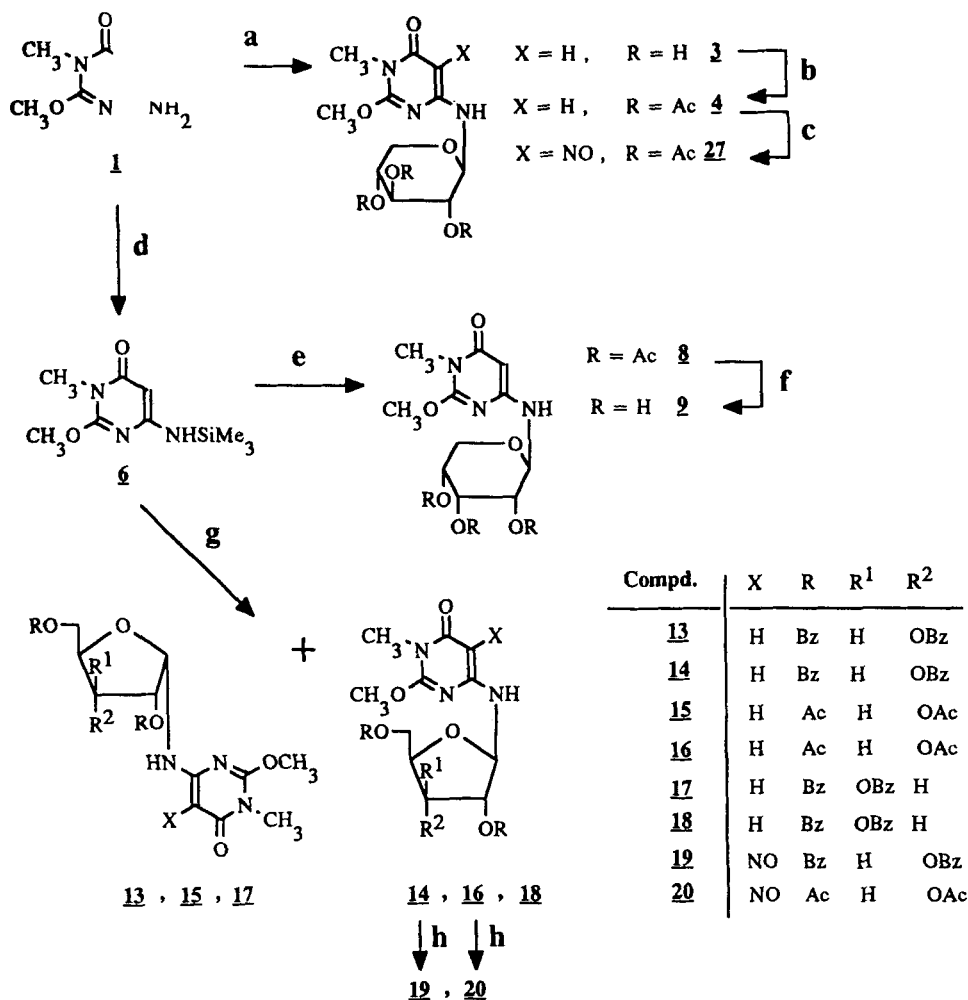
In previous papers, we have described glycosidation of several 6-aminopyrimidines.² In all these reactions only β -D-glycopyranosides were obtained. Such glycopyranosyl derivatives showed to be appropriate intermediates in the synthesis of other nucleoside analogues and they were tested against HIV and several tumours.³

As part of our programme of research on the synthesis and biological activity of these types of compounds, we became interested in the synthesis of the corresponding glycofuranosyl nucleosides analogues to the above glycopyranosides in order to study their anticancer and anti-HIV activities.

Reaction of the 6-aminopyrimidine **1** with molar amount of D-xylose, **2**, and acetic acid in ethanol gave 2-methoxy-3-methyl-6- β -D-xylopyranosylamino pyrimidin-4(3H)one **3** (49%). The configuration of **3** was evidenced from the ¹H-NMR spectrum⁴ and studying some of its derivatives such as **4**^{2,5} (Scheme I) (Tables I and II). The β -anomeric configuration shown for the pyranoside **3** was readily deduced from the trans-diaxial coupling (> 8 Hz) observed between H-1' and H-2' in the ¹H-NMR spectra.

Under the same conditions, reaction of **1** with D-ribose, **5**, led to a mixture, probably of 6- β and 6- α -D-ribofuranosides and 6- β and 6- α -D-ribofuranosides. Due to its complexity, this mixture was unable to be resolved.

[#]Dedicated to the memory of Professor R.K. Robins, U.S.A



a: D-xylose (2), EtOH/AcOH, reflux; b: Ac₂O/Pyridine, r.t.; c: NaNO₂/AcOH; d: HMDS, (NH₄)₂SO₄, reflux; e: Per-O-acetylribose (7), CH₃CN, SnCl₄ (1.5 eq.), r.t.; f: NH₃/MeOH, r.t.; g: 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose (10), or 1,2,3,5-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-ribofuranose (11), or 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-α-D-ribofuranose (12), CH₃CN, SnCl₄ (1.5 eq.), r.t.; h: NaNO₂/AcOH.

SCHEME 1

Table I.- Analytical and UV spectroscopic data.

Comp.	Yield (%)	MP (°C)	$[\alpha]_D^{20}$ (c=1) Solvent	Molecular Formula ^a	UV λ_{max} (ε) Solvent
3	49	238-9(d)	-20° H ₂ O	C ₁₁ H ₁₇ N ₃ O ₆	266 (15600) 212 (25100) H ₂ O
6	92	133-5	---	C ₉ H ₁₇ N ₃ O ₂ Si	268 CHCl ₃
8	29	201-2	+45.6° CHCl ₃	C ₁₇ H ₂₃ N ₃ O ₉	264 (13600) 221 (12800) MeOH
9	80	110-2	-10.7° H ₂ O	C ₁₁ H ₁₇ N ₃ O ₆ ·2H ₂ O	269 (15500) 216 (27800) H ₂ O
14	80	174-6	-26° CHCl ₃	C ₃₂ H ₂₈ N ₃ O ₉	266 (13000) 228 (33700) MeOH
16	49	121	-37.1° CHCl ₃	C ₁₇ H ₂₃ N ₃ O ₉	266 (11800) 222 (11800) MeOH
24	34	232-4(d)	-18.4° H ₂ O	C ₁₁ H ₁₇ N ₇ O ₆	261 (12400) 213 (24900) H ₂ O
27	83	148-50(d)	+0.0° DMSO	C ₁₇ H ₂₂ N ₄ O ₁₀	603 (59) 336 (12800) 302 Sh 229 (18200) MeOH

^aSatisfactory analytical data for C, H and N were obtained for all the new crystalline solids.

The ribopyranoside analogue to **3** was prepared under the Vorbruggen's conditions⁶, by treatment of **1** with hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) and (NH₄)₂SO₄ affording **6** as a crystalline solid, and subsequent reaction of this derivative with per-O-acetylribopyranose, **7**. Deacetylation of intermediate **8** with NH₃/MeOH led to **2** in 80% yield (Scheme I) (Tables I and II).

Preparation of furanoside analogues of **3** and **2** was carried out under the same conditions by reaction of **6** with 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose **10**, 1,2,3,5-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-ribofuranose **11** and 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-α-D-ribofuranose **12**.⁷ In all these cases, mixtures of α and β anomers were obtained (Scheme I, Table I). Use of various quantities of catalyst⁸ or change of solvent (ClCH₂CH₂Cl instead of CH₃CN) did not produce improvement of these results.

Table II.- ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR data.

Comp.	Solvent	$\delta_{\text{H-1}'}^{\text{a}}$	$J_{1',2'}(\text{Hz})$	$\delta_{\text{NH}}^{\text{b}}$	$J_{\text{NH},1'}(\text{Hz})$	$\delta_{\text{C-1}'}$
3	DMSO- d_6	4.60, m	---	7.25, d	9.0	---
	D_2O	5.05, d	9.0	---	---	---
4	CDCl_3	5.35, m	---	5.95, d	9.0	81.1
6	CDCl_3	---	---	4.35, s	---	---
	DMSO- d_6	---	---	6.54, s	---	---
8	DMSO- d_6	5.40, m	8.9	7.65, d	8.9	---
						78.7(CDCl_3)
9	DMSO- d_6	4.90, pst	8.2	7.15, d	8.5	79.1
						81.0 (D_2O)
13	CDCl_3	6.30, dd	4.8	5.60, d	9.0	---
14	CDCl_3	5.75, m	---	5.75, m	---	82.5
	DMSO- d_6	5.90, t	---	8.05, d	9.0	---
15	CDCl_3	5.95, m	---	5.55	---	---
16	CDCl_3	5.10-5.45, m	5.5	5.10-5.45, m	---	82.5
	DMSO- d_6	5.65, dd	4.8	7.80, d	8.9	---
17	CDCl_3	6.00, m	---	6.00, m	---	---
18	CDCl_3	5.70-5.90, m	---	5.70, m	---	---
19	CDCl_3	6.20, d	0.0	12.90, d	8.3	---
20	CDCl_3	5.95, dd	2.8	12.50, d	7.1	84.4
23	DMSO- d_6	5.50, dd	2.1	12.10, d	8.2	---
24	DMSO- d_6	5.00, m	---	7.30, d	9.5	79.2
25	CDCl_3	5.30-5.95, m	---	5.80, d	6.0	---
26	CDCl_3	5.70, dd	5.5	12.70, d	8.2	---
27	DMSO- d_6	5.80, pst	8.2	12.70, d	8.2	---
	CDCl_3	5.90, m	8.2	12.30, d	8.2	77.9

^a Collapsing to doublet (3, 8, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 26 and 27) or singlet (19) on exchange with deuterium oxide

^b Exchangeable with deuterium oxide, coupled with H-1'. s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; t, triplet; pst, pseudotriplet; m, multiplet.

All the nitroso derivatives (19, 20, 23, 26 and 27) showed a six member intramolecular hydrogen bond between the O atom of the NO group and the H atom of the $\text{C}_6\text{-NH}$ group that are not depicted in some cases in the schemes. This fact was evidenced by the downshifting of the doublet corresponding to the resonance of the $\text{C}_6\text{-NH}$ proton.

Formation of α anomers in this type of glycosidation could be explained considering a previous formation of an intermediate 4-O-glycofuranoside with β configuration, as it has been described in similar situations.⁹ This kinetically controlled compound could undergo evolution to the thermodynamically more stable product, 6-N-glycoside. As consequence, an anomeric mixture is obtained.

Configuration of these compounds were assigned on the basis of the coupling constants $J_{1',2'}$ values, comparing with compounds **4** and **8**, and by detailed examination of their ^{13}C -NMR spectra¹⁰ (Table II). In furanoid rings the coupling constants vary from 3 to 8 Hz for neighbouring cis-protons and from 0 to 8 Hz for neighbouring trans-proton; Thus, only when the coupling constants are less than 3 Hz can assignments be made.

Nevertheless, the $J_{1',2'}$ values of compounds **14**, **15**, **17** and **18** were not measurable since the corresponding signals appear together with other sugar protons. For this reason, configurations at their anomeric centres were assigned, according to Nishimura and Shimizu¹¹, on the basis of $\delta_{\text{H},1'}$ values (for α -anomer appears downshifted with regard to the corresponding β -anomer) (Table II). To confirm these assignments, compounds **14** and **16** were nitrosated with sodium nitrite and acetic acid leading to the corresponding 5-nitroso derivatives as unique compounds, **19** and **20**, showing unambiguous $J_{1',2'}$ values for β -furanosides (**19**, $J_{1',2'} = 0.0$ Hz; and **20**, $J_{1',2'} = 2.8$ Hz) (Scheme I, Table II).

In the reaction between **6** and per-O-acetylribose **7**, presence of low quantity of α -anomer was detected by t.l.c., even though the isolation of this isomer was not feasible.

Deprotection of **14** by treatment with NaOMe/MeOH led to **9** in 52% yield and from the mother liquors of this reaction, after nitrosation, 42% of the red derivative **23** ($J_{1',2'} = 2.10$ Hz; $\delta_{\text{H},1'} = 5.50$ ppm, DMSO- d_6) was isolated. This compound, **23**, may be originated from **21**; in aqueous medium the blue 5-nitroso derivative **22** may undergo CH_3O hydrolysis¹³ (Scheme II).

The isomerization furanose-pyranose, could be caused by the basic medium generating a resonance stabilized anion by abstraction of the $\text{C}_6\text{-NH}$ proton. This process causes the furanose ring opening and the pyranose ring is formed by attack of hydroxyl group at C-5' to the anomeric carbon; under acidic conditions such isomerization has been also observed.¹² Even if several products may be formed, only the β -pyranose and β -furanose derivatives, thermodynamically favoured, were able to be isolated.

When deprotection of a mixture of **17** and **18** was carried out only β -furanoside **24** ($\delta_{\text{H},1'} = 5.00$ ppm) was possible to isolate (Scheme II). As $J_{1',2'}$ could not be measure for **24** and because only one anomer was isolated, this compound was converted in its 5-nitroso-tri-O-acetyl derivative **26** and compared with the 5-nitroso-tri-O-acetylxylopyranosyl derivative, **27**, obtained by nitrosation of **4** (Table II, Schemes I and II).¹⁴

The screening for activities "in vitro" of compounds **3**, **9** and **24** against HIV and several tumours has been performed in the N.C.I. (according to standard methods), and none of them have shown significant anticancer or anti-AIDS activity.¹⁵



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2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-trimethylsilylaminopyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 6.

To a mixture of 3.1 g (20 mmol) of dry 6-amino-2-methoxy-3-methyl pyrimidin-4(3H)-one **1** and 5 mg of dry $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, 60 ml of HMDS were added. The mixture was stirred at reflux, under nitrogen atmosphere, with the exclusion of mixture for 24 h. At this time, the obtained solution was concentrated at reduced pressure to approximately 30 ml and kept overnight in fridge. The crystalline solid which appeared was filtered off and dried over P_2O_5 in vacuo. 4.20 g. Rf: 0.39 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ (5:0.3); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 164.0, 163.1, 156.5 (C-2, C-4, C-6), 84.0 (C-5), 55.5 (CH_3O), 27.1 (CH_3N), 0.12 (CH_3Si). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3240 m, 2940 m, 1645 s, 1595 s, 1540 s, 1445 m, 1380 s, 1350 m, 1205 s, 1165 m, 925 m, 860 s, 835 s, 800 s. MS m/z (abundance %): 227 (M^+ , 24), 212 (33), 197 (1), 182 (1), 155 (100), 140 (25), 125 (23), 68 (27).

2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 8.

To a cooled suspension of 1.13 g (5 mmol, 1 eq) of the silyl derivative **6** and 1.59 g (5 mmol, 1 eq) of 1,2,3,4-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-ribofuranose, **7**, in 17.5 ml of dry CH_3CN , a cold solution of 0.88 ml (17.5 mmol, 1.5 eq) of freshly distilled SnCl_4 in 17.5 ml of dry CH_3CN was added. After stirring at room temperature for 28 h with exclusion of mixture, the obtained solution was evaporated under reduced pressure (temperature below 40°C) and the syrupy residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO_3 . After separation of the organic layer, the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x10 ml). The combined CH_2Cl_2 solutions were washed with water (2x10 ml), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated at reduced pressure. The residue was crystallized from ethyl alcohol. 0.6 g. Rf 0.39, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ (5:0.4). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 170.4, 169.9, 169.5 (COO), 164.0, 160.0, 156.8 (C-2, C-4, C-6), 82.3 (C-5), 78.7 (C-1'), 68.4, 68.3, 66.4 (C-2', C-3', C-4'), 62.3 (C-5'), 55.6 (CH_3O), 27.3 (CH_3N), 20.7, 20.6 (CH_3CO). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3240 m, 3060 w, 1735 m, 1645 s, 1600 w, 1545 s, 1470 w, 1440 w, 1370 s, 1290 m, 1245 s, 1220 s, 1155 m, 1105 m, 1065 s, 1040 m, 995 m, 870 m, 800 m, 780 m, 745 m. MS m/z (abundance %): 413 (M^+ , 3), 354 (5), 294 (3), 234 (7), 184 (69), 156 (40), 97 (15), 43 (100).

2-methoxy-3-methyl-6- β -D-ribofuranosylaminopyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 9.

A mixture of **8** (0.20g, 0.49 mmol) and methanolic ammonia (saturated at 0°C , 15 ml) was kept in a pressure bottle at room temperature for three days. The solvent was removed and the residue crystallized from MeOH/Diethyl ether at -20°C . 0.11 g. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm): 162.4, 161.0, 156.4 (C-2, C-4, C-6), 79.9 (C-5), 79.1 (C-1'), 70.6, 69.4, 67.1 (C-2', C-3', C-4'), 63.8 (C-5'), 55.2 (CH_3O), 26.5 (CH_3N). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (D_2O) δ (ppm): 168.9, 164.8, 160.0 (C-2, C-4, C-6), 84.1 (C-5), 81.0 (C-1'), 72.9, 71.7, 69.0 (C-2', C-3', C-4'), 65.9 (C-5'), 58.5 (CH_3O), 30.1 (CH_3N). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3400-3120 s broad, 2920 m, 1635 s, 1555 s, 1535 s, 1415 m, 1365 m, 1280 m, 1250 m, 1210 s, 1165 m, 1135 m, 1105 m, 1055 s, 1030 s, 955 s, 800 m, 780 m. MS m/z (abundance %): 287 (M^+ , 5), 256 (1), 198 (8), 184 (32), 156 (100), 125 (11), 72 (48), 60 (26).

Reaction between 6 and 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose, 10.

Reaction between **6** (3.41 g, 15 mmol, 1 eq), **10** (7.56 g, 15 mmol, 1 eq) and SnCl_4 (2.65 ml, 22.5 mmol, 1.5 eq) in 50 ml of CH_3CN was carried out in absolute CH_3CN (50 ml) as described above for compound **8**. After evaporation the syrupy residue in tlc (CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether/ethanol, 3.8:0.9:0.1) showed to be a mixture of two products. By crystallization from EtOH (300 ml), 7.2 g of 2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, **14**, were obtained. The compound was recrystallized from ethanol. Rf 0.34, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{EtOH}$ (5:0.3). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 166.2, 165.5, 165.4 (COO), 163.9, 159.7, 156.8 (C-2, C-4, C-6), 133.6, 133.5, 133.2, 129.9, 129.8, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5 (aromatic carbon atoms), 85.0 (C-5), 82.5 (C-1'), 79.0, 74.3, 71.1 (C-2', C-3', C-4'), 64.2 (C-5'), 55.5 (CH_3O), 27.3 (CH_3N). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3275 s, 3060 m, 3010 w, 2950 m, 2900 m, 1735 s, 1650 s, 1605 m, 1585 w, 1555 s broad, 1450 m, 1415 m, 1380 m, 1320 m,

1275 s, 1215 m, 1180 m, 1130 s, 1070 m, 1025 m, 1000 m, 965 m, 930 m, 880 w, 815 m, 800 w, 780 m, 710 s, 680 m, 640 m, 656 m. MS, m/z (abundance %): 599 (M^+ , 1), 478 (1), 445 (1), 356 (1), 235 (2), 153 (1), 122 (1), 105 (100), 77 (19).

After compound **14** was filtered off, 0.37 g of the residue resulting from the evaporation of the mother liquors yielded 20 mg (11%) of the second product by preparative tlc (CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether/ethanol, 11.4:4:0.1). Such compound was identified by 1H -NMR as: **2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- α -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 13**. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 3.30 (3H, s, CH_3N), 3.95 (3H, s, CH_3O), 4.65 (3H, s, $C(5')-H_2$ and $H-4'$), 5.35 (1H, s, $H-5$), 5.60 (1H, d, $C(6)-NH$), 6.30 (1H, dd, $H-1'$), 7.20-8.10 (15H, m, Bz).

To a solution of 1.798 g (3 mmol) of **14** in 5 ml of acetic acid, 0.23 g (3.3 mmol) of $NaNO_2$ were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes and then 50 ml of water were added. After neutralization with a saturated solution of $NaHCO_3$, the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (4x10 ml) and the organic layer washed with H_2O , dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to dryness at reduced pressure. The blue residue was not possible to recrystallize. However, since tlc showed enough purity, according to its 1H -NMR spectrum this compound was assigned to **2-methoxy-3-methyl-5-nitroso-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 19**. Rf 0.73, CH_2Cl_2 /EtOH (5:0.2). 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 3.40 (3H, s, CH_3N), 4.00 (3H, s, CH_3O), 4.70 (3H, s, $C(5')-H_2$ and $H-4'$), 5.80 (2H, m, $H-2'$ and $H-3'$), 6.20 (1H, d, $H-1'$), 7.00-8.40 (15H, m, Bz), 12.90 (1H, d, $C(6)-NH$).

Reaction between **6** and **1,2,3,5-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-ribofuranose, 11**.

Reaction between **6** (2.27 g, 10 mmol, 1 eq), **11** (3.18 g, 10 mmol, 1 eq) in 40 ml of dry CH_3CN and freshly distilled $SnCl_4$ (1.76 ml, 15 mmol, 1.5 eq, in 40 ml of dry CH_3CN) was carried out as described above for compound **8**. After evaporation, the syrupy residue showed two product in tlc (diethyl ether/isopropanol, 9.5:0.5). By silica gel column chromatography using diethyl ether/isopropanol (97:3) as eluent, 2.02 g of **2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 16**, were obtained. The compound was crystallized from ethanol/diethyl ether/petroleum ether. Rf 0.51, diethyl ether/isopropanol (9.5:0.5). IR (KBr) $\nu_{max}(cm^{-1})$: 3280 s, 3050 w, 2940 m, 1745 s, 1645 s, 1600 m, 1535 s, 1460 w, 1375 s, 1280 w, 1235 s, 1140 m, 1100 m, 1060 m, 1040 m, 1010 m, 925 m, 890 m, 800 m, 775 m, 745 m, 625 m. MS, m/z (abundance %): 413 (M^+ , 9), 354 (8), 294 (7), 259 (4), 234 (25), 184 (96), 156 (51), 139 (33), 97 (20), 43 (100).

The second product (Rf:0.36, diethyl ether/isopropanol, 9.5:0.5) could not be isolated. By comparing between the 1H -NMR spectrum of **16** and the 1H -NMR of the residue resulting from the evaporation of the mother liquors of the reaction, this compound could be identified as: **2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl- α -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 15**, (Table II).

Reaction between **6** and **1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- α -D-xylofuranose, 12**.

Reaction between **6** (1.13 g, 5 mmol, 1 eq), **12**⁷ (2.52 g, 5 mmol, 1 eq) in 17.5 ml of dry CH_3CN and freshly distilled $SnCl_4$ (0.88 ml, 7.5 mmol, 1.5 eq in 17.5 ml of dry CH_3CN) was carried out as described above for compound **8**. After evaporation, the syrupy residue showed two products in tlc (CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether/EtOH, 3.8:0.9:0.1). By preparative tlc (CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether/EtOH, 12:3:0.3) 0.153 g of the residue yielded 0.037 g (24 %) of the product with lower Rf identified as: **2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- β -D-xylofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 18**, and 0.026 g (17%) of compound with the highest Rf identified as: **2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- α -D-xylofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4(3H)-one, 17**.

Both of them were identified by 1H -NMR:

Compound **17**: 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 3.30 (3H, s, CH_3N), 3.95 (3H, s, CH_3O), 4.70 (2H, m, $C(5')-H_2$), 4.85 (1H, st, $H-4'$), 5.55 (2H, m, $H-5$ and $H-3'$), 6.00 (3H, m, $C(6)-NH$, $H-1'$ and $H-2'$), 7.10-8.30 (15H, m, Bz).

Compound **18**: 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 3.30 (3H, s, CH_3N), 3.90 (3H, s, CH_3O), 4.70 (3H, m, $C(5')-H_2$ and $H-4'$), 5.30 (2H, m, $H-5$ and $H-3'$), 5.70-5.90 (3H, m, $C(6)-NH$, $H-2'$ and $H-1'$), 7.10-8.30 (15H, m, Bz).

2-methoxy-3-methyl-5-nitroso-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4-(3H)-one, 20.

Reaction between **16** (0.62 g, 1.5 mmol) in 1 ml of acetic acid and NaNO_2 (0.21 g, 3 mmol) was carried out as described above for compound **14**. The blue residue was crystallized from ethanol. 0.33 g (60%). M.p.: 115°C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -34.1^\circ$ (c 1, CHCl_3). ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 171.02, 167.5, 169.2 (COO), 161.1, 158.9, 146.3 (C-2, C-4, C-6), 141.7 (C-5), 84.4 (C-1'), 79.3, 74.7, 70.1 (C-2', C-3', C-4'), 62.3 (C-5'), 57.2 (CH_3O), 28.0 (CH_3N), 21.0, 20.5 (CH_3CO).

Deprotection of compound 14.

To a suspension of 2.99 g (5 mmol) of **14** in 20 ml of MeOH, 5 ml (5 mmol) of 1M solution of NaOMe were added. The obtained mixture was stirred for 4 hours at room temperature and then neutralized with acetic acid and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in 30 ml of water and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (6x5 ml). The aqueous layer was evaporated and the residue crystallized from $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{MeOH}$ (20 ml, 50%) yielding 0.75 g (52%) of compound **9**.

To the mother liquors 0.4 g (5.8 mmol) of NaNO_2 and 0.4 ml of acetic acid were added. Immediately, the solution became blue in colour turning red after several days. Then such mixture was evaporated to dryness at reduced pressure, the residue crystallized from $\text{EtOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (9:1, v/v) and identified as **3-methyl-5-nitroso-6-(β -D-ribofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-2,4(1H,3H)-dione, 23**. 0.3 g. M.p.: 160°C (d). ^1H -NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm): 3.20 (3H, s, CH_3N), 3.30-4.40 (8H, m, sugar protons and OH), 5.50 (1H, dd, H-1'), 12.10 (1H, d, C(6)-NH).

2-methoxy-3-methyl-6- β -D-xylofuranosylaminopyrimidin-4-(3H)-one, 24.

This compound was obtained when the syrupy residue obtained in the reaction between **6** and **12**, previously described, was dissolved in MeOH (10 ml) and treated with NaOMe 1M (5 ml). After stirring at room temperature for 3 hours, the solution was neutralized with AcOH and kept at -20°C. The solid which appeared was filtered off and washed with cold MeOH and diethyl ether and recrystallized from MeOH. 0.49 g (34%). IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3340 m, 3310 s, 2960 m, 2860 m, 1640 s, 1605 w, 1570 s, 1545 s, 1470 m, 1420 m, 1380 m, 1335 s, 1290 m, 1260 m, 1215 s, 1150 m, 1100 s, 1080 s, 1055 s, 1020 m, 970 m, 930 m, 800 m, 780 m. ^{13}C -NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm): 162.3, 160.5, 156.3 (C-2, C-4, C-6), 83.0 (C-5), 79.2 (C-1'), 77.4, 72.0, 69.7 (C-2', C-3', C-4'), 66.7 (C-5'), 55.2 (CH_3O), 26.5 (CH_3N). MS, m/z (abundance %): 287 (M^+ , 4), 227 (2), 197 (6), 184 (30), 156 (92), 140 (20), 112 (16), 72 (100), 60 (69), 43 (87).

0.15 g of **24** were added to a mixture of 25 mg of dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) in 10 ml of Ac_2O and stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The solution was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure (temperature below 40°C) and coevaporated several times with MeOH. The residue was purified by preparative tlc ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$, 5:0.25) and according with its ^1H -NMR spectrum the obtained compound was assigned to **2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-xylofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4-(3H)-one, 25**. 0.15 g (70%). Rf 0.61 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$, 5:0.3). ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 2.05 (6H, s, CH_3COO), 2.30 (3H, s, CH_3COO), 3.30 (3H, s, CH_3N), 3.95 (3H, s, CH_3O), 5.25 (1H, s, H-5), 5.30-5.95 (2H, m, C(6)-NH and H-1').

0.1 g of **24** were dissolved in AcOH (0.5 ml) and then 0.1 g of NaNO_2 were added. After stirring at room temperature for 15 minutes, 10 ml of water were added and the solution extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x5 ml). The organic layer was washed with H_2O , dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to dryness. The blue residue could not be purified by the usual procedures nevertheless, since tlc showed enough purity, according with its ^1H -NMR spectrum was possible to infer that such compound is **2-methoxy-3-methyl-5-nitroso-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-xylofuranosylamino)pyrimidin-4-(3H)-one, 26**. ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 2.05 (6H, s, CH_3COO), 2.30 (3H, s, CH_3COO), 3.50 (3H, s, CH_3N), 4.10 (3H, s, CH_3O), 5.10 (3H, m, sugar protons), 5.70 (1H, dd, H-1'), 12.70 (1H, d, C(6)-NH).

2-methoxy-3-methyl-5-nitroso-6-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-xylopyranosylamino)pyrimidin-4-(3H)-one, 27.

This compound was prepared by a previously published procedure.¹⁴

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