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# Synthesis of triazolyl-linked polysialic acids

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#### Abstract:

A new approach for the synthesis of triazolyl-linked  $\alpha$ -(2-9) oligosialic acids by iterative copper(I)-catalyzed alkyne-azide cycloaddition (CuAAC) and desilylation has been developed. By using propargyl  $\alpha$ -sialoside **5** and trimethylsilylated-propargyl 9-azido- $\alpha$ -sialoside **3** as building blocks, triazolyl-linked  $\alpha$ -(2-9) di- to octa-sialic acids were constructed in good to moderate yields. Finally, the pseudo- $\alpha$ -(2-9)-oligosialic acids were obtained very smoothly via *O*-deprotection. The oligosialic acids with a triazolyl-linkage represent a new type of pseudooligosialic acids. This protocol may find applications in the preparation of oligosialic acid analogues with biological importance.

Keywords: polysialic acid; click reaction; triazole; cycloaddition; carbohydrate

#### **Graphical abstract:**



#### 1. Introduction

Protein or lipid glycosylation is an omnipresent and life-governing process. Sialic acids, a family of sugar units with a nine-carbon backbone that are typically attached to the outermost ends of sugar chains,<sup>1</sup> exert a multitude of biological and pathological effects such as cellular adhesion, inflammatory response, cell signaling, and cell differentiation. <sup>2</sup> Polysialic acid (PSA) is a type of linear homopolymer of sialic acid. Three kinds of polysialic acids have been identified in nature, these include  $\alpha(2-8)$ ,  $\alpha(2-9)$ , and alternating  $\alpha(2-8)$  and  $\alpha(2-9)$  linkages,<sup>3</sup> as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Structures of polysialic acids.

Due to its outermost location, PSA plays a vital role in biological processes such as embryogenesis, neural cell growth, differentiation, cell-cell mediating, and membrane transport.<sup>4</sup> In addition, many studies suggest that polysialic acids, present on the surface of *N. meningitidis* B and C,<sup>5</sup> human embryonal carcinoma cells,<sup>6</sup> mouse neurobrastoma cells,<sup>7</sup> and sea urchin sperm flagella *et al.*,<sup>8</sup> serve as bacterial or cancer cell shields against the attack systems. Moreover, PSA can also be used in biomedical engineering and tissue engineering.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, polysialic acids are considered either good targets for the development of vaccines or tools for probing the interactions between polysaccharides and their receptors.<sup>10</sup> However, polysialic acids are often heterogeneous or contaminated from natural sources and susceptible to degradation by chemical

hydrolysis or glycosyl hydrolases.<sup>10b,11</sup> The establishment of an effective method to synthesize pure polysialic acids/pseudopolysialic acids with the well-defined structure will not only simplify the complexity of polysialic acid-based vaccines, but also benefit a better understanding of the functions of polysialic acids.

Considerable efforts have been aroused in the synthesis of both PSA and PSA analogues. Some methods have been developed for the synthesis of homooligosialic acids with  $\alpha(2-8)$ ,  $\alpha(2-9)$ , and alternating  $\alpha(2-8)/\alpha(2-9)$  intersially linkages.<sup>12</sup> *S*-Linked  $\alpha(2-8)$  and alternating  $\alpha(2-8)/\alpha(2-9)$  oligosialic acids resistant to hydrolysis have also been prepared.<sup>13</sup> On the other hand, the [3+2] Huisgen cyclization of an azide with an alkyne to form a triazole has recently emerged as a powerful conjugate strategy for the preparation of neoglycoconjugates with biomedical interest,<sup>14</sup> in which the formed triazole ring can improve the solubility in water and take part in hydrogen bonding and dipole interactions.<sup>15</sup> By using the iterative copper(I)-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC) reaction strategy,<sup>16</sup> herein we report the synthesis of triazolyl-linked  $\alpha(2-9)$  oligosialic acids.

#### 2. Results and discussion

To achieve triazolyl-linked  $\alpha(2-9)$  oligosialic acids, sialic acid building blocks **5** and **3** were chosen. As shown in Scheme 1, compound **5** is coupled with **3** using CuAAC reaction to afford the pseudodisialic acid. The temporarily silyl protective group can be removed to yield the desilylated product, which is followed by the cycloaddition reaction to produce the pseudotrisialic acid. The repetition of cycloaddition-desilylation reactions allows rapid assembly of triazolyl-linked oligosialic acids. In this synthetic strategy, *O*-peracetylated propargyl  $\alpha$ -sialoside **5** and *O*-peracetylated trimethylsilylated-propargyl 9-azido- $\alpha$ -sialoside **3** are the key building blocks. The trimethylsilyl protection of alkyne was a prerequisite devoid of polymerization. The use of *O*-acetyl protection is to facilitate the preparation of the building blocks, the coupling reactions, and the isolation of the similarity and resistance to chemical and enzymatic degradation, but it is difficult to obtain. Thus, a longer propargyl linker, which might not impair the functions of polysaccharides,<sup>14f</sup> was used.



**Scheme 1**. The synthetic strategy of triazolyl-linked  $\alpha(2-9)$  oligosialic acids.

The synthesis of building block **5** and intermediate **11** followed the reported procedure with some modifications (Scheme 2).<sup>17</sup> The peracetylated sialic acid **7**<sup>18</sup> was treated with *p*-thiocresol to give thiosialoside **8** in 87% yield. Promoted by NIS/TfOH, glycosyl donor **8** underwent the sialylation reaction with propargyl alcohol smoothly to afford compound **5** $\alpha\beta$  in 89% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 2/1$ , inseparable mixture). Deacetylation of **5** $\alpha\beta$  obtained the desired  $\alpha$ -isomer **9** after column chromatography, which was acetylated to provide **5**. Treatment of **9** with TsCl, which was followed by the azido-substitution with NaN<sub>3</sub> generated compound **10**. Acetylation of **10** gave compound **11** in 75% yield.



**Scheme 2.** Reagents and conditions: a) Pyr., Ac<sub>2</sub>O, DMAP, r.t., 95%; b) BF<sub>3</sub>•Et<sub>2</sub>O, TolSH, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, r.t. overnight, 87%; c) NIS/TfOH, propargyl alcohol, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4 Å MS, 89%; d) NaOMe/MeOH, r.t. 47%; e) TsCl, Pyr., 4 Å MS, 0 °C; f) NaN<sub>3</sub>, 15-crown-5, DMF, H<sub>2</sub>O, 65 °C, 42% over two steps; g) Pyr., Ac<sub>2</sub>O, DMAP, r.t., 75% for **11**, 85% for **5**.

Next, we turn our attention to the synthesis of silylalkyne **3**. There are many methods for silylation of terminal alkynes.<sup>19</sup> Due to the presence of ester group in compound **11**, mild trimethylsilylation conditions are needed. The silylation conditions varying both the reagents and solvents were investigated at different temperatures, and the results were summarized in Table 1. When TMSOTf/Et<sub>3</sub>N<sup>16b</sup> (Entry 1) or Et<sub>2</sub>NTMS<sup>20</sup> (Entry 2) was employed in THF using ZnCl<sub>2</sub> as the catalyst, there was no reaction observed. When trifluoromethyltrimethylsilane (TMSCF<sub>3</sub>)/KF or CsF (Entries 3 and 4) was used,<sup>21</sup> the silylalkyne **3** was obtained in low yield (< 25%). We inferred that the fluoride could react with SiO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, when Teflon tube was used instead of glassware, the yield was improved significantly (70%, Entry 5). Similarly, 4Å molecular sieves also made this reaction not occur in Teflon tube (Entry 6). With the increase of the reaction temperature, the yield was decreased (< 50%, Entry 7), resulting from the decomposition of silylalkyne **3** at higher temperatures. So we got the optimized silylation reaction conditions: TMSCF<sub>3</sub>/CsF/anhydrous 1,4-dioxane/30 °C in Teflon tube.

 Table 1. Preparation of 3 and optimization of the silvlation conditions of 11.



1	ZnCl <sub>2</sub> /TMSOTf/	THF	r.t. to 60	no reaction
	Et <sub>3</sub> N			
2	ZnCl <sub>2</sub> /Et <sub>2</sub> NTMS	THF	r.t. to 60	no reaction
3	TMSCF <sub>3</sub> /KF	DMF	r.t.	< 25%
$4^{\rm c}$	TMSCF <sub>3</sub> /CsF	1,4-dioxane	r.t.	< 20%
5 <sup>a,c</sup>	TMSCF <sub>3</sub> /CsF	1,4-dioxane	30	70%
6 <sup>a,b,c</sup>	TMSCF <sub>3</sub> /CsF	1,4-dioxane	30	no reaction
$7^{a,c}$	TMSCF <sub>3</sub> /CsF	1,4-dioxane	50	< 50%

<sup>a</sup>In Teflon tube. <sup>b</sup>With 4Å molecular sieves. <sup>c</sup>Conditions: TMSCF<sub>3</sub> (3.0 equiv.), CsF (0.4 equiv.), 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL).

With these building blocks in hand, the copper(I)-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition reaction of propargyl  $\alpha$ -sialoside **5** and trimethylsilylated-propargyl 9-azido- $\alpha$ -sialoside **3** was investigated (Table 2). When CuSO<sub>4</sub>/sodium ascorbate/DMF was used, the reaction failed to provide the desired product **4a** (Entry 1). Under the catalysis of CuSO<sub>4</sub>/sodium ascorbate in *t*-BuOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O or DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O, the thin layer chromatography (TLC) monitoring showed that most of the starting materials disappeared and some polymeric products generated (Entries 2 and 3). This is because the silylalkynes **3** and **4a**, which are water-sensitive, were desilylated under these conditions. When using CuI (0.2 eq.)/DIPEA/DMF at 50 °C, the reaction proceeded and the dimeric product **4a** was isolated in 48% yield (Entry 4). The yield was improved as the solvent was changed to acetonitrile (Entry 5, 65% yield). However, the microwave irradiation provided no gains in the yield (Entry 6, 54% yield). With the decrease of the reaction temperature, the yield was further increased (Entry 7, 78% yield).





2 $CuSO_4$ (0.15 eq.)/sodium $DMF/H_2O$ 50 °C ascorbate	polymers
3 $CuSO_4(0.15 \text{ eq.})/\text{sodium}$ t-BuOH/CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> O 50 °C	polymers
ascorbate	
4 CuI (0.2 eq.)/DIPEA DMF 50 °C	48%
5 $CuI (0.2 eq.)/DIPEA$ MeCN 50 °C	65%
6 CuI (0.2 eq.)/DIPEA MeCN 50 °C, MW 150W	54%
7         CuI (0.2 eq.)/DIPEA         MeCN         30 °C	78%

Subsequently, we optimized the reaction conditions of desilylation. After surveying the efficiency of reaction with TBAF/THF/MeCN,<sup>22</sup> AgF/Et<sub>3</sub>N/MeCN<sup>23</sup> or AgNO<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O/acetone,<sup>24</sup> we were pleased to discover that the treatment of dimer **4a** with AgNO<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>O and acetone at 40 °C afforded the desired desilylated pseudodisaccharide **2a** in quantitative yield. As the coupling reaction and the desilylation reaction were merged in one-pot, some higher oligomers could be produced, resulting from the further reaction of the desilylated product with the residual azido-containing building block. Therefore, the desired oligomeric product needed to be purified by column chromatography.



Table 3. Iterative CuAAC reaction and desilylation to produce pseudo-α(2-9)-oligosialic acids.

		Product	Yield	Product	yield
1	0	2a	78%	<b>1</b> a	78%
2	1	2b	76%	1b	89%
3	2	2c	60%	1c	88%
4	3	2d	77%	1d	99%
5	4	2e	68%	1e	87%
6	5	<b>2f</b>	56%	1f	94%
7	6	2g	47%	1g	96%

Thus, the same cycloaddition-desilylation sequence was repeated over several times (up to seven cycles) with gradually decreased efficiency. This is because a higher trimethylsilylated-propargyl oligomer (with one more sialic acid than the desired) was formed due to the further cycloaddition reaction of the partially desilylated product with **3**. As the sugar chain becomes longer, the side-product (higher oligomer) would be produced in an increased amount. Oligomers **2a-g** were deprotected smoothly under the basic conditions to afford the corresponding triazolyl-linked  $\alpha$ -(2-9) di- to octa- oligosialic acids **1a-1g**. Based on this protocol, all synthetic compounds **2a-g** and **1a-g** were obtained in excellent to moderate yields. The isolated yield of each cycle was summarized in Table 3. The structures of **2a-g** and **1a-g** were unambiguously identified by their <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and high-resolution mass spectra.

#### 3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have developed an efficient way to synthesize  $\alpha$ -(2-9)-oligosialic acid analogues linked by a triazole ring using the Cu(I)-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition strategy. By using propargyl  $\alpha$ -sialoside **5** and trimethylsilylated-propargyl 9-azido- $\alpha$ -sialoside **3** as building blocks, triazolyl-linked  $\alpha$ -(2-9) di- to octa- oligosialic acids were assembled in good to moderate yields via the iterative cycloaddition-desilylation operation. The subsequent *O*-deprotection afforded the pseudo- $\alpha$ -(2-9)-oligosialic acids in high yields and with high purity. To the best our knowledge, the triazolyl linkage was introduced by us for the assembly of pseudooligosialic acids for the first time. The disclosed protocol may find applications in the preparation of  $\alpha$ (2-8) and alternating  $\alpha$ (2-8)/ $\alpha$ (2-9) oligosialic acid analogues which will facilitate the understanding of functions of polysialic acids and the related drug discovery.

#### 4. Experimental

#### 4.1. General

All chemicals were purchased as reagent grade and used without further purification, unless otherwise noted. Dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), pyridine, and acetonitrile were distilled over calcium hydride (CaH<sub>2</sub>). Methanol was distilled from magnesium. DMF and 1,4-dioxane were stirred with calcium hydride (CaH<sub>2</sub>) and distilled under reduced pressure. All reactions were carried out under anhydrous conditions with freshly distilled solvents, unless otherwise noted. Reactions were monitored by analytical thin-layer chromatography on silica gel 60-F<sub>254</sub> precoated on alunminum plates (E. Merck.). Spots were detected under UV (254 nm) and/or by staining with acidic ceric ammonium molybdate. Solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure and below 40 °C (bath). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh, TsingDao Ocean or 230-400 mesh, Merck), reversed phase column chromatography was performed on a Bruker 400M or 600M spectrometers at 25 °C. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were referenced to tetramethylsilane ( $\delta = 0$  ppm) in deuterated chloroform. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained by using the same NMR spectrometers and were calibrated with CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta = 77.00$  ppm). Mass spectra were recorded using a Bruker APEX IV FT-MS (7.0 T) spectrometer.

#### 4.2. General procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation reactions

To a mixed solution of **5** or **2a-f** (1.0 eq.) and **3** (1.0-1.1 eq.) in dried MeCN, CuI (0.2 eq.) and DIPEA (2.0 eq.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 30 °C. After the disappearance of **5** or **2a-f** (detected by TLC) the solvent was evaporated. The silylalkyne products **4a-g** were purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 25:1). Products **4a-g** were dissolved in acetone (3.0 mL) and water (0.1 mL). To the reaction mixture was added AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.5 eq.), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at 40 °C. Subsequently, the reaction was quenched by saturated aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH) to afford **2a-g**.

#### 4.3. General procedure for deprotection

To a solution of **2a-2g** in methanol (1.0 mL) was added NaOMe (81.0 mg, 1.5 mmol). After stirring for 0.5 h, the reaction mixture was added H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1 mL) and stirred overnight at 50 °C. The resulting solution was neutralized with hydrochloric acid (1 M) to pH = 4-5, and evaporated to

dryness. The residue was purified by reversed-phase column chromatography to afford the deprotected products **1a-g**.

#### **4.4**.

#### (2-(3-trimethylsilyl-2-propynyl)

# 5-acetamido-4,7,8-tri-*O*-acetyl-9-azido-3,5,9-trideoxy-D-glycero-α-D-galacto-2-nonulopyrano sid)onate (3)

Methyl

To a solution of  $11^{17}$  (600.0 mg, 1.17 mmol) in dry 1,4-dioxane in a Teflon tube was added TMSCF<sub>3</sub> (0.6 mL) and cesium fluoride (20.0 mg) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 30 °C. After stirring for 0.5 h, the mixture was evaporated, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/acetone, 3:1) to afford compound **3** as a white solid (476.0 mg, 70% yield). [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.81 (*c* 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.34-5.30 (m, 2H, H-7, H-8), 5.15 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H, NH), 4.85 (ddd, *J* = 12.0, 9.9, 4.7 Hz, 1H, H-4), 4.43 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H, HC=CC*H*<sub>2</sub>), 4.12-4.03 (m, 3H, HC=CC*H*<sub>2</sub>, H-5, H-6), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.59-3.56 (m, 1H, H-9b), 3.30-3.25 (m, 1H, H-9a), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3b), 2.18 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.16 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.01 (t, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H-3a), 1.89 (s, 3H, NHCOC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 0.17 (s, 9H, (C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Si); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.98, 170.25, 170.19, 170.12, 167.74, 100.26, 98.22, 91.57, 72.92, 69.75, 68.80, 67.88, 53.60, 52.88, 50.88, 49.33, 37.81, 23.16, 21.00, 20.81, -0.27. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Si ([M + NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>): 602.2488; found: 602.2486.

## 4.5. Protected disialic acid (2a)

The reaction of  $\mathbf{5}^{17}$  (27.2 mg, 51.4 µmol, 1.0 eq.) and **3** (30.0 mg, 51.4 µmol, 1.0 eq.) was performed for 2 h as described in the general procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation, affording **2a** (elution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (25/1); 41.6 mg, 78% yield; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.48, MeOH/EtOAc, 1:8, v/v) as white solids. [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.93 (*c* 3.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.73 (s, 1H, NCH), 5.48-5.43 (m, 2H, H-8, H-8'), 5.36 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H, NH), 5.33 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-7'), 5.29 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-7), 5.24 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H, NH), 4.91-4.83 (m, 4H, H-4, H-4', OCH<sub>2</sub>C), 4.53 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H, H-9b), 4.43 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H, HC≡CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.40 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H, H-9b'), 4.34 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-9a'), 4.23 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H, HC≡CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.16-4.06 (m, 5H, H-9a, H-5, H-5', H-6, H-6'), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 4.7 Hz, 1H, H-3e), 2.62 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-3e'), 2.46 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, *H*C≡C), 2.21 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.17 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.16 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.07 (s, 3H,

COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.04 (s, 6H, 2COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.03 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.01-1.94 (m, 2H, H-3a, H-3a'), 1.89 (s, 3H, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.88 (s, 3H, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.96, 170.93, 170.71, 170.67, 170.30, 170.21, 170.14, 170.08, 169.86, 168.17, 167.69, 143.97, 124.02, 98.63, 98.37, 78.84, 74.69, 73.23, 72.60, 70.17, 68.93, 68.66, 68.41, 67.35, 62.49, 58.50, 52.98, 52.89, 50.08, 49.39, 49.34, 37.90, 37.68, 23.16, 23.11, 21.10, 20.89, 20.81, 20.74; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>60</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>24</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 1042.3623; found: 1042.3657.

#### 4.6. Protected trisialic acid (2b)

The reaction of **2a** (33.9 mg, 32.6  $\mu$ mol) and **3** (24.6 mg, 35.8  $\mu$ mol, 1.1 eq.) was performed for 4 h as described in the general procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation, affording **2b** (elution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (20/1); 38.4 mg, 76% yield; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.48, MeOH/EtOAc, 1:8, v/v) as white solids. [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -1.04 (*c* 3.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.75 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 5.49-5.28 (m, 8H), 4.95-4.84 (m, 7H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.45-4.39 (m, 3H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.18-4.06 (m, 7H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.69-2.59 (m, 3H), 2.46 (br.s, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 6H), 2.07-2.02 (m, 18H), 2.00-1.94 (m, 3H), 1.88-1.87 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.94, 170.79, 170.73, 170.69, 170.62, 170.34, 170.29, 170.25, 170.10, 169.91, 169.78, 168.17, 168.12, 167.73, 143.90, 143.81, 124.16, 123.97, 98.81, 98.58, 98.34, 78.86, 74.71, 73.23, 72.60, 70.38, 70.15, 68.93, 68.74, 68.53, 68.47, 68.32, 67.34, 62.45, 58.42, 52.96, 52.87, 50.10, 49.39, 49.19, 37.88, 37.64, 23.14, 23.10, 23.06, 21.10, 20.91, 20.88, 20.80, 20.74; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>65</sub>H<sub>88</sub>N<sub>9</sub>O<sub>35</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 1554.5377; found: 1554.5416.

#### 4.7. Protected tetrasialic acid (2c)

The reaction of **2b** (38.4 mg, 24.7  $\mu$ mol) and **3** (15.9 mg, 27.2  $\mu$ mol, 1.1 eq.) was performed for 8 h as described in the general procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation, affording **2c** (elution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (15/1); 30.4 mg, 60% yield; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.48, MeOH/EtOAc, 1:7, v/v) as white solids. [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.27 (*c* 3.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.75 (s, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 5.76 (br.d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (br.d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.51-5.43 (m, 4H), 5.37-5.27 (m, 6H), 4.95-4.85 (m, 10H), 4.63-4.53 (m, 3H), 4.46-4.38 (m, 4H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16-4.06 (m, 9H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.69-2.56 (m, 4H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.21- 2.20 (m, 9H), 2.16 (s, 6H), 2.05-2.03 (m, 21H), 2.00-1.93 (m, 4H), 1.88 (br.s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.99, 170.90, 170.86, 170.80, 170.71, 170.69, 170.41, 170.34, 170.18, 170.12, 169.96, 169.92, 169.88, 168.16, 168.14, 168.12, 167.78, 143.92, 143.82, 143.71, 124.25, 124.18, 124.05, 98.80, 98.78, 98.57, 98.34, 78.92, 74.79, 73.23, 73.16, 72.59, 70.47, 70.41, 70.16, 68.91, 68.85, 68.78, 68.75, 68.46, 68.44, 68.32, 67.32, 62.46, 58.46, 58.40, 58.37, 53.01, 52.90, 50.12, 50.08, 50.02, 49.37, 49.26, 49.13, 37.86, 37.65, 29.66, 23.15, 23.11, 23.08, 23.06, 21.13, 21.03, 20.93, 20.91, 20.83, 20.77; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>86</sub>H<sub>116</sub>N<sub>13</sub>O<sub>46</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 2066.7132; found: 2066.7181.

#### 4.8. Protected pentasialic acid (2d)

The reaction of **2c** (40.5 mg, 19.6  $\mu$ mol) and **3** (12.0 mg, 20.6  $\mu$ mol, 1.05 eq.) was performed for 12 h as described in the general procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation, affording **2d** (elution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (12/1); 38.9 mg, 77% yield; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.39, MeOH/EtOAc, 1:3, v/v) as white solids. [a]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -1.15 (*c* 2.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.75-7.72 (m, 4H), 5.87 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 5.57-5.44 (m, 6H), 5.37-5.29 (m, 6H), 4.92-4.86 (m, 14H), 4.63-4.53 (m, 4H), 4.45-4.42 (m, 5H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.20-4.07 (m, 12H), 3.80-3.74 (m, 15H), 2.68-2.59 (m, 5H), 2.47 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.21-2.20 (m, 12H), 2.16 (s, 6H), 2.05-2.02 (m, 30H), 2.00-1.97 (m, 5H), 1.88-1.87 (m, 15H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.99, 170.88, 170.84, 170.80, 170.72, 170.70, 170.67, 170.43, 170.34, 170.18, 170.11, 169.94, 169.89, 168.17, 168.14, 168.12, 167.79, 143.92, 143.71, 124.20, 124.04, 98.80, 98.77, 98.58, 98.34, 78.88, 74.78, 73.22, 73.16, 72.59, 70.45, 68.91, 68.85, 68.78, 68.76, 68.47, 68.44, 68.34, 67.32, 62.47, 60.39, 58.47, 58.37, 54.03, 53.01, 52.91, 52.89, 50.11, 49.38, 49.28, 49.23, 49.13, 37.87, 37.65, 23.16, 23.11, 23.08, 21.14, 21.03, 20.95, 20.92, 20.86, 20.83, 20.77. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>107</sub>H<sub>144</sub>N<sub>17</sub>O<sub>57</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 2578.8886; found: 2578.8902.

#### 4.9. Protected hexasialic acid (2e)

The reaction of **2d** (32.1 mg, 12.4  $\mu$ mol) and **3** (7.3 mg, 12.4  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) was performed for 12 h as described in the general procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation, affording **2e** (elution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (10/1); 26.2 mg, 68% yield; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.35, MeOH/EtOAc, 1:3, v/v) as white solids. [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.73 (*c* 3.6, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.77 (m, 5H), 6.00-5.89 (m, 4H), 5.66-5.44 (m, 8H), 5.35-5.30 (m, 6H), 4.92-4.88 (m, 16H), 4.62-4.35 (m, 12H), 4.26-4.07 (m, 14H), 3.80-3.74 (m, 18H), 2.69-2.60 (m, 6H), 2.51 (s, 1H), 2.21-2.20 (m, 15H), 2.15 (s, 6H), 2.07-1.98 (m, 42H), 1.88(s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.97, 170.96, 170.82, 170.76, 170.68, 170.54, 170.50, 170.41, 170.24, 170.11, 170.00, 169.96, 168.14, 168.12, 167.77, 143.78, 124.25, 98.79, 98.76, 98.56, 98.32, 74.84, 73.20, 73.13, 72.57, 70.53, 70.19, 68.89, 68.85, 68.77, 68.47, 68.42, 68.32, 67.32, 62.46, 58.44, 58.33, 53.00, 52.92, 52.87, 50.13, 49.31, 49.16, 49.06, 37.83, 37.62, 23.11, 23.06, 23.02, 21.12, 20.92, 20.89, 20.84, 20.81, 20.75; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>128</sub>H<sub>171</sub>N<sub>21</sub>O<sub>68</sub>K<sub>2</sub> ([M + 2K]<sup>2+</sup>): 1564.5089; found: 1564.5160.

#### 4.10. Protected heptasialic acid (2f)

The reaction of **2e** (25.6 mg, 8.3  $\mu$ mol) and **3** (4.9 mg, 8.3  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 eq.) was performed for 12 h as described in the general procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation, affording **2f** (elution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (8/1); 16.8 mg, 56% yield;  $R_f = 0.48$ , MeOH/EtOAc, 2:5, v/v) as white solids. [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.31 (*c* 3.8, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.76 (m, 6H), 5.93-5.84 (m, 5H), 5.59-5.44 (m, 8H), 5.33-5.30 (m, 7H), 4.93-4.88 (m, 19H), 4.61-4.52 (m, 5H), 4.44-4.34 (m, 9H), 4.26-4.07 (m, 17H), 3.80-3.74 (m, 21H), 2.68-2.63 (m, 7H), 2.50 (s, 1H), 2.20 (m, 18H), 2.15 (m, 6H), 2.07-1.96 (m, 49H), 1.88 (br.s, 21H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.95, 170.83, 170.78, 170.75, 170.66, 170.46, 170.40, 170.33, 170.16, 170.07, 169.90, 168.14, 167.77, 143.82, 132.25, 130.88, 129.97, 129.67, 128.79, 124.25, 98.75, 98.56, 98.32, 74.83, 73.20, 73.14, 72.57, 70.40, 68.90, 68.87, 68.77, 68.49, 68.41, 68.35, 67.31, 65.53, 62.46, 58.34, 53.01, 52.88, 50.17, 49.34, 49.20, 49.09, 37.85, 37.64, 23.14, 23.09, 23.06, 22.63, 21.13, 20.95, 20.90, 20.85, 20.81, 20.76. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>149</sub>H<sub>201</sub>N<sub>25</sub>O<sub>79</sub> ([M + 2H]<sup>2+</sup>): 1802.1239.; found: 1802.2267.

#### 4.11. Protected octasialic acid (2g)

The reaction of **2f** (49.0 mg, 13.6  $\mu$ mol) and **3** (8.3 mg, 14.3  $\mu$ mol, 1.05 eq.) was performed for 12 h as described in the general procedure for cycloaddition-desilylation, affording **2g** (elution with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (8/1); 26.1 mg, 47% yield; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.39, MeOH/EtOAc, 2:5, v/v) as white solids. [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.97 (*c* 3.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.76-7.73 (m, 7H), 5.98-5.85 (m, 6H), 5.48-5.43 (m, 8H), 5.35-5.29 (m, 9H), 4.93-4.85 (m, 22H), 4.62-4.60 (m, 6H), 4.47-4.33 (m, 10H), 4.27-4.06 (m, 19H), 3.80-3.73 (m, 24H), 2.64-2.62 (m, 8H), 2.49 (s, 1H), 2.21-2.15 (m, 27H), 2.07-1.97 (m, 56H), 1.88 (br.s, 27H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.97, 170.80, 170.76, 170.67, 170.50, 170.45, 170.36, 170.19, 170.09, 169.93, 168.16, 167.78, 167.70, 143.74, 132.26, 130.89, 129.98, 129.68, 128.80, 124.24, 98.79, 98.76, 98.57, 98.33, 74.82, 73.19, 72.58, 70.43, 70.15, 68.88, 68.78, 68.44, 68.35, 67.33, 65.54, 62.47, 58.34, 53.01, 52.91, 52.87, 50.14, 49.34, 49.19, 49.09, 37.64, 23.05, 20.94, 20.91, 20.85, 20.82, 20.77. MS (MALDI-TOF) m/z Calcd. for  $C_{170}H_{227}N_{29}O_{90}Na [M + Na]^+$ : 4138.40; found: 4139.24.

#### 4.12. Triazolyl-linked α(2-9)-disialic acid (1a)

The deprotection of **2a** (25.4 mg, 24.4  $\mu$ mol) was performed as described in the general procedure for deprotection, affording **1a** as white solids (13.7 mg, 78% yield). [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.15 (*c* 2.6, H<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  8.06 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.84-4.74 (m, 1H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.94-3.80 (m, 4H), 3.75-3.58 (m, 6H), 3.43 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.77-2.69 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.71-1.64 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  175.10, 175.03, 173.23, 172.73, 143.77, 126.07, 100.79, 100.67, 72.69, 72.54, 71.68, 70.03, 69.25, 68.25, 68.99, 62.63, 57.34, 52.92, 52.58, 51.84, 51.76, 40.27, 22.04; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>17</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 720.2576; found: 720.2569.

#### 4.13. Triazolyl-linked $\alpha$ (2-9)-trisialic acid (1b)

The deprotection of **2b** (21.2 mg, 13.6  $\mu$ mol) was performed as described in the general procedure for deprotection, affording **1b** as white solids (13.6 mg, 89% yield). [a]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -3.23 (*c* 2.9, H<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  8.07 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.82-4.75 (m, 2H), 4.62-4.52 (m, 4H), 4.33 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.26-4.19 (m, 3H), 3.88-3.81 (m, 5H), 3.76-3.62 (m, 7H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.43-3.38 (m, 2H), 2.76-2.70 (m, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 6H), 1.67 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  175.83, 175.80, 175.76, 173.98, 173.92, 173.48, 144.49, 126.98, 126.88, 101.54, 101.50, 101.41, 80.35, 76.07, 73.42, 73.28, 73.13, 72.40, 70.71, 70.45, 69.96, 69.93, 69.01, 68.98, 68.84, 68.75, 63.34, 58.07, 53.63, 53.54, 53.35, 52.58, 52.50, 41.03, 39.45, 22.76; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>61</sub>N<sub>9</sub>O<sub>25</sub>Na ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>): 1114.3671; found: 1114.3677.

#### 4.14. Triazolyl-linked α(2-9)-tetrasialic acid (1c)

The deprotection of **2c** (29.4 mg, 14.2  $\mu$ mol) was performed as described in the general procedure for deprotection, affording **1c** as white solids (18.4 mg, 88% yield). [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -6.68 (*c* 1.6, H<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  8.07-8.06 (m, 3H), 4.91-4.87 (m, 3H), 4.84-4.75 (m, 3H),

4.62-4.52 (m, 6H), 4.33 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 4.26-4.20 (m, 4H), 3.88-3.81 (m, 6H), 3.77-3.63 (m, 9H), 3.59 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.44-3.37 (m, 3H), 2.76-2.70 (m, 4H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.68 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  175.83, 175.81, 175.77, 173.98, 173.93, 173.49, 144.47, 127.01, 126.88, 101.54, 101.50, 101.41, 79.92, 73.43, 73.28, 73.12, 72.41, 70.74, 70.41, 69.97, 69.89, 69.01, 68.99, 68.83, 68.76, 63.35, 58.07, 53.64, 53.51, 53.34, 52.59, 52.50, 41.02, 22.78. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>56</sub>H<sub>82</sub>N<sub>13</sub>O<sub>33</sub> ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 1464.5132; found: 1464.5173.

#### 4.15. Triazolyl-linked α(2-9)-pentasialic acid (1d)

The deprotection of **2d** (32.9 mg, 12.8  $\mu$ mol) was performed as described in the general procedure for deprotection, affording **1d** as white solids (23.4 mg, 99% yield). [a]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -4.89 (*c* 3.0, H<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  8.10 (m, 4H), 4.92-4.89 (m, 4H), 4.84-4.75 (m, 4H), 4.64-4.54 (m, 8H), 4.35 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 4.28-4.22 (m, 5H), 3.90-3.64 (m, 18H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.46-3.37 (m, 4H), 2.78-2.72 (m, 5H), 2.06-2.02 (m, 15H), 1.70 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  175.86, 175.83, 175.79, 173.93, 173.48, 171.80, 144.62, 127.10, 101.57, 79.97, 73.44, 73.29, 73.13, 72.48, 72.43, 70.83, 70.76, 70.53, 70.47, 69.99, 69.96, 69.92, 69.00, 68.83, 68.76, 63.40, 58.11, 53.69, 53.58, 53.44, 53.37, 53.30, 52.64, 52.61, 41.03, 22.91, 22.87, 22.82; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>70</sub>H<sub>101</sub>N<sub>17</sub>O<sub>41</sub>Na<sub>2</sub> ([M + 2Na]<sup>2+</sup>): 940.8068; found: 940.8051.

# 4.16. Triazolyl-linked α(2-9)-hexasialic acid (1e)

The deprotection of **2e** (33.6 mg, 10.9  $\mu$ mol) was performed as described in the general procedure for deprotection, affording **1e** as white solids (20.9 mg, 87% yield). [a]  $_{\rm D}^{30}$  -11.39 (*c* 2.5, H<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  8.08-8.07 (m, 5H), 4.91-4.88 (m, 5H), 4.84-4.75 (m, 5H), 4.63-4.53 (m, 10H), 4.40 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 4.27-4.20 (m, 5H), 3.89-3.59 (m, 23H), 3.45-3.36 (m, 5H), 2.77-2.72 (m, 6H), 2.04-2.01 (m, 18H), 1.68 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  182.22, 175.85, 175.82, 175.78, 173.99, 173.94, 173.49, 171.80, 144.47, 127.04, 126.89, 101.49, 79.94, 73.43, 73.29, 73.12, 72.43, 70.77, 70.45, 70.37, 69.98, 69.90, 69.83, 69.09, 68.99, 68.83, 68.76, 63.37, 58.07, 53.66, 53.53, 53.48, 53.38, 52.61, 52.52, 41.02, 22.81. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>121</sub>N<sub>21</sub>O<sub>49</sub>Na<sub>2</sub> ([M + 2Na]<sup>2+</sup>): 1126.8698; found: 1126.8745.

#### 4.17. Triazolyl-linked α(2-9)-heptasialic acid (1f)

The deprotection of 2f (35.0 mg, 9.7  $\mu$ mol) was performed as described in the general

procedure for deprotection, affording **1f** as white solids (23.6 mg, 94% yield).  $[\alpha]_{D}^{30}$  -10.10 (*c* 3.1, H<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  8.13 (m, 6H), 4.90-4.74 (m, 14H), 4.62 (m, 10H), 4.36-4.20 (m, 8H), 3.90-3.59 (m, 25H), 3.45-3.36 (m, 6H), 2.81-2.72 (m, 7H), 2.04-2.01 (m, 21H), 1.72-1.70 (m, 7H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  175.81, 175.77, 173.88, 144.83, 143.25, 130.19, 127.18, 126.08, 103.39, 101.58, 73.43, 73.29, 73.12, 72.42, 70.74, 70.40, 70.31, 69.98, 69.89, 69.80, 69.01, 68.99, 68.83, 68.76, 63.36, 58.09, 53.67, 53.53, 53.47, 53.35, 52.61, 52.51, 41.02, 22.80. MS (MALDI-TOF) m/z Calcd. for C<sub>98</sub>H<sub>139</sub>N<sub>25</sub>O<sub>57</sub> [M - 2H]<sup>2-</sup> : 1288.94; found: 1288.55.

#### 4.18. Triazolyl-linked α(2-9)-octasialic acid (1g)

The deprotection of **2g** (35.3 mg, 8.58  $\mu$ mol) was performed as described in the general procedure for deprotection, affording **1g** as white solids (24.4 mg, 96% yield). [a]  $_{\rm D}^{30}$  -12.45 (*c* 3.2, H<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  8.08 (br.s, 7H), 4.92-4.89 (m, 7H), 4.80-4.75 (m, 2H), 4.64-4.55 (m, 15H), 4.37-4.21 (m, 10H), 3.91-3.60 (m, 31H), 3.47-3.37 (m, 7H), 2.79-2.74 (m, 8H), 2.05-2.02 (m, 24H), 1.70 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  175.80, 173.99, 173.93, 173.49, 144.39, 127.04, 101.54, 101.46, 101.40, 73.40, 73.26, 73.09, 70.86, 70.42, 70.19, 70.04, 69.91, 69.83, 69.72, 69.00, 68.83, 68.76, 63.44, 63.28, 58.09, 53.54, 53.44, 53.32, 52.68, 52.54, 41.12, 41.02, 40.91, 23.06, 22.88, 22.70, 22.53. MS (MALDI-TOF) m/z Calcd. for C<sub>112</sub>H<sub>162</sub>N<sub>29</sub>O<sub>65</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 2953.02; found: 2953.00.

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#### Supplementary data

Copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of the reported compounds. Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2014.07.099</u>.

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# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Synthesis of triazolyl-linked polysialic acids

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General procedures. All chemicals were purchased as reagent grade and used without further purification, unless otherwise noted. Dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), pyridine, and acetonitrile were distilled over calcium hydride (CaH<sub>2</sub>). Methanol was distilled from magnesium. DMF and 1,4-dioxane were stirred with calcium hydride (CaH<sub>2</sub>) and distilled under reduced pressure. All reactions were carried out under anhydrous conditions with freshly distilled solvents, unless otherwise noted. Reactions were monitored by analytical thin-layer chromatography on silica gel 60-F<sub>254</sub> precoated on alunminum plates (E. Merck.). Spots were detected under UV (254 nm) and/or by staining with acidic ceric ammonium molybdate. Solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure and below 40 °C (bath). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh, TsingDao Ocean or 230-400 mesh, Merck), reversed phase column chromatography was performed on LiChroprep RP-18 (40-63  $\mu$ m, Merck). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400M or 600M spectrometers at 25 °C. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were referenced to tetramethylsilane  $(\delta = 0 \text{ ppm})$  in deuterated chloroform. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained by using the same NMR spectrometers and were calibrated with  $CDCl_3$  ( $\delta = 77.00$  ppm). Mass spectra were recorded using a Bruker APEX IV FT-MS (7.0 T) spectrometer.



## Methyl

# (5-acetamido-2,4,7,8,9-penta-*O*-acetyl-3,5-dideoxy-D-glycero-α-D-galacto-2-nonu lopyranosid)onate (7).

To a solution of **6** (1.0 g) in dry pyridine (4.0 mL) was added Ac<sub>2</sub>O (3.0 mL) and DMAP (50.0 mg) at 0 °C. After stirring at room temperature for 3 h, the solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL), saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solution was evaporated to afford **7** as a yellow foam (1.5 g, 95%).  $\alpha$  isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.38 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 5.30-5.22 (m, 2H, H-8, NH), 5.07 (ddd, *J* = 6.6, 5.3, 2.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H, H-9b), 4.14-4.09 (m, 3H, H-5, H-6, H-9a), 3.80 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.15 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 4.9 Hz, 1H, H-3e), 2.18 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.15 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.90 (s, 3H, NHCOC*H*<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data is consistent with the literature.<sup>[11]</sup>

### Methyl

#### (2-*p*-methylphenyl

# 5-acetamido-4,7,8,9-tetra-*O*-acetyl-3,5-dideoxy-D-glycero-α-D-galacto-2-thio-non ulopyranosid)onate (8).

To a solution of **7** (16.90 g, 31.7 mmol) and *p*-methylthiophenol (7.50 g, 60.4 mmol, 2.0 eq.) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) was added BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O (6.5 mL, 1.5 eq.). The resulting solution was stirred at r.t. overnight. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (200 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL), saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solution was evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 3/1 to 0/1) to afford **8** as a white foam (16.5 g, 87%).  $\alpha$  isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 5.30-5.24 (m, 2H, H-7, H-8), 5.09 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H, NH), 4.84 (td, *J* = 10.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H-4), 4.41 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H, H-9b), 4.21 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-9a), 3.97

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Marra, A. and Sinay, P. Carbohydr. Res. 1989, 187, 35-42

(q, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H, H-5), 3.87 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H-6), 3.61 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.78 (dd, J = 12.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-3e), 2.36 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.14 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.06 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.01 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.00-1.94 (m, 1H, H-3a), 1.86 (s, 3H, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data is consistent with the literature.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Methyl

## (2-propynyl

# 5-acetamido-4,7,8,9-tetra-O-acetyl-3,5-dideoxy-D-glycero-α-D-galacto-2-nonulop yranosid)onate (5αβ).

To a suspension of 4 Å molecular sieves (3.0 g), compound 8 (16.50 g, 27.6 mmol) and propargyl alcohol (6.2 mL) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL) was added NIS (14.30 g, 63.5 mmol, 2.3 eq.) and TfOH (0.93 mL, 11.0 mmol, 0.3 eq.) at 0 °C. After stirring for 1 h at 0 °C, the mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and the celite was washed thoroughly with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The filtrate was washed with saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, saturated aq. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/acetone, 3:1) to afford  $5\alpha\beta$  as white foams (13.0, 89%). The  $\alpha$ isomer is compound 5: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.43-5.40 (m, 1H, H-8), 5.31 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, NH), 5.14-5.12 (m, 1H, H-7), 4.91-4.84 (m, 1H, H-4), 4.41 (dd, J = 15.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H, HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.29 (dd, J = 12.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H-9b), 4.17 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H, HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.11-4.05 (m, 3H, H-5, H-6, H-9a), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.64 (dd, J = 12.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3e), 2.44 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H, HC=C), 2.16 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.15 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.05 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.04 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.99 (t, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H, H-3a), 1.88 (s, 3H, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data is consistent with the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### Methyl

### (2-propynyl

# **5-acetamido-3,5-dideoxy-D-glycero-** $\alpha$ **-D-galacto-2-nonulopyranosid**)**onate (9).** To a solution of $5\alpha\beta$ (11.1 g, 21.0 mmol) in dry MeOH (100 mL) was added 1 M

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ye, X.-S.; Huang, X. and Wong, C.-H. Chem. Commun. 2001, 974–975.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Shelke, S. V.; Cutting, B.; Jiang, X. H.; Ernst, B. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2010, 49, 5721-5725.

NaOMe/MeOH (20 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with Amberlyst 15 (H+) ion-exchange resin and filtered through a pad of celite. The celite was thoroughly washed with MeOH, and the combined filtrates were concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 14:1) to afford pure  $\alpha$  isomer **9** as white solids (3.54 g, 47%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD):  $\delta$  4.37 (ABq, J = 12.0, 2.5 Hz, 2H, HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.85-3.77 (m, 2H, H-8, H-9b), 3.71-3.64 (m, 2H, H-4, H-9a), 3.60 (dd, J = 10.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H-6), 3.52 (dd, J = 9.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H-7), 2.88 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H, HC=C), 2.72 (dd, J = 12.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3e), 2.02 (s, 3H, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.77 (t, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H, H-3a). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data is consistent with the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

# Methyl [2-propynyl 5-acetamido-3,5-dideoxy-9-*O*-(4-toluenesulfonyl)-D-glyceroα-D-galacto-2-nonulopyranosid]onate (9Ts).

To a solution of 4Å molecular sieves (3.0 g) and **9** (3.24 g, 8.98 mmol) in dry pyridine (15 mL) was added *p*-TsCl (2.91 g, 15.3 mmol, 1.7 eq.) and DMAP (200 mg) at 0 °C. After stirring for 2 h, the reaction was quenched with methanol (20 mL). After removal of the sieves and solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 30:1) to afford the product as white solids (5.50 g). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD):  $\delta$  7.82 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, ArH), 4.33 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H-9b), 4.29 (ABq, *J* = 11.3, 2.4 Hz, 2H, HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.11 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-9a), 4.02-3.98 (m, 1H, H-8), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.72 (t, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H, H-5), 3.66 (td, *J* = 10.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-4), 3.57 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H, H-6), 3.47 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H, H-7), 2.86 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H, HC=C), 2.69 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3a). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data is consistent with the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

Methyl

(2-propynyl

 $5\-acetamido-9\-azido-3, 5, 9\-trideoxy-D\-glycero\-\alpha\-D\-galacto\-2\-nonulopyranosid) on$ 

## ate (10).

To a solution of **9-Ts** (5.50 g) in DMF (25 mL) was added water (1 mL), 15-crown-5 (0.2 mL) and NaN<sub>3</sub> (2.10 g, 5eq.). The resulting solution was stirred at 65 °C overnight. The mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 25:1) afforded **10** as white foams (1.46 g, 42% from **9**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD):  $\delta$  4.37 (ABq, J = 10.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H, HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.02-3.98 (m, 1H, H-8), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (t, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H, H-5), 3.68 (dd, J = 11.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 3.63 (dd, J = 10.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H-6), 3.56 (dd, J = 12.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H, H-9b), 3.48 (dd, J = 9.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-7), 3.41 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H, H-9a), 2.86 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H, HC=C), 2.71 (dd, J = 12.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3e), 2.03 (s, 3H, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.75 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H, H-3a). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data is consistent with the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

# Methyl

(2-propynyl

# 5-acetamido-4,7,8-tri-*O*-acetyl-9-azido-3,5,9-trideoxy-D-glycero-α-D-galacto-2-no nulopyranosid)onate (11).

To a solution of **10** (1.46 g, 37.8 mmol) in dry pyridine (10 mL) was added Ac<sub>2</sub>O (7.5 mL) and DMAP (50.0 mg) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/acetone, 3:1) to afford **11** as white foams (1.47 g, 75%). [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>30</sup><sub>D</sub> -0.29 (*c* 2.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.36-5.30 (m, 2H, H-7, H-8), 5.15 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H, NH), 4.87 (ddd, *J* = 12.0, 9.9, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-4), 4.40 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H, HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H, HC=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.11-4.06 (m, 2H, H-5, H-6), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.57 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-9b), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H, H-9a), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3e), 2.46 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H, HC=C), 2.19 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.17 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.04 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.99 (t, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H-3a), 1.89 (s, 3H, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.98, 170.26, 170.19, 170.11, 167.75, 98.12, 78.81, 74.56, 72.86, 69.48, 68.71, 67.78, 52.90,

52.81, 50.90, 49.28, 37.79, 23.16, 21.02, 20.84, 20.82. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data is consistent with the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>







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