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Effective and one-step stereo-controlled synthesis of benzyloxylated-diiodopentanes for the synthesis of five-membered imino-sugars

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ABSTRACT

An effective and stereo-controlled synthesis of 1,3,4-tris(benzyloxy)-2,5-diiodopentane starting from 2,3,5-tris(benzyloxy)pentane-1,4-diol was reported. Synthesis was improved to get the diiodide compound instead of forming the ring-closure product (benzyloxylated tetrahydrofuran). From the diiodide intermediate, the five-membered aza-sugar was synthesized with high yield.

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Carbohydrate mimetics in which the endocyclic oxygen is replaced by sulfur, nitrogen, and other heteroatoms (Fig. 1a) have been found to possess a range of biological activities against HIV. Gaucher's disease, hepatitis, cancer, diabetes, and other diseases.¹ The five-membered sugar mimetics (1 and 3), core structures of many azasugar- and thiosugar-nucleosides, have emerged as promising synthetic drugs as inhibitors of DNA- or RNA-related enzymes² and glycosidases (Fig. 1).³ The C-nucleoside hydrochloride D-ImmH (2), now 'Fodosine™', is in phase II clinical trials as an anti-T-cell leukemia agent.⁴ A new class of naturally occurring glycosidase inhibitors (4) was isolated by Yoshikawa et al.⁵ from Salacia reticulata Wight (known as 'kothala himbutu' in Singhalese), used in Ayurveda medicine for the treatment of Type II diabetes mellitus, and the core structure was thiosugar (3). In this regard, the development of reaction methodologies, which provides a simple and economically favorable synthesis of such carbohydrate mimetics, is very necessary.

To date, a number of synthetic strategies for the total synthesis of these challenging imino-, thio-, and seleno-sugar mimetics have been demonstrated, starting from amino acids⁶ or carbohydrates as well as by asymmetric⁷ or enzymatic synthesis.⁸ Previous studies show that a simple and convenient strategy was to introduce two leaving groups via one step and close the sugar ring by a

* Corresponding author. Tel./fax: +86 022 2350 7760. E-mail address: wzhao@nankai.edu.cn (W. Zhao). nucleophile reactant (Scheme 1a). For example, Fleet has demonstrated the efficient assembly of azetidines with poly-hydroxyl and poly-chiral centers via a ring closure reaction from sugar ditriflate.⁹ Satoh has investigated the synthesis of thiosugar via ring open sugar by the reduction reaction.¹⁰ However, these methods suffered from the drawback of the carbon chiral centers of C5 which were reversed by the S_N2 nucleophilic reaction. Recently, Kumar et al.¹¹ and Zhang et al.¹² synthesized a series of imino-sugar derivatives by inversion of the configuration of C5 by the Mitsunobu reaction followed by the second S_N2 substitution reaction



'nн

HO

ЪН

2 Fodosine

OH

OH

HO





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Scheme 1. Reported strategies for the ring-closure reaction.

(Scheme 1b). Although this strategy can synthesize target products in a good yield, the synthetic routes are time-consuming because of the protection and deprotection steps. Protection group-free synthesis of aza-sugars from carbohydrates was also reported,¹³ but only 2,3-*cis*-pyrrolidine products could be obtained. In continuation of our studies on glycosidase inhibitors,¹⁴ we herein report a more concise and practical synthesis of imino-sugar derivatives from stereo-controlled benzyloxylated-diiodopentane intermediate via stereochemistry.

Skrydstrup and co-workers¹⁷ reported the transformation of two hydroxyl groups into iodic groups simultaneously from methyl 2,4-di-O-benzyl-D-mannopyranoside. The alkene product, but not the C3-nitrile compound was isolated due to the trans- β -elimination reaction of the C4-proton. Also, only the 3,6-anhydro product was observed from corresponding ditriflate sugars. In our approach, diol compound **5**, easily prepared from D-ribose through four steps,¹⁰ was treated with PPh₃/I₂ to afford the key intermediate **6**¹⁵ as depicted in Scheme 2. Subjection of the diiodide derivative **6** to excess sodium azide in DMF led to the mono-substituted compound **8**¹⁶ selectively. Subsequent treatment of **8** with PPh₃/THF/H₂O and ring-closure simultaneously, afforded the protected 1,4-imino D-ribitol. After deprotection using Pd/C, the final compound (+)-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino D-ribitol **1**,⁷ which is consistent with that reported in literatures,⁷ was obtained.

Unfortunately, at room temperature or at higher temperature, the vield of dijodide compound **6** from diol compound **5** was very low (only 5%). It was assumed that this was due to the lower reactivity of the secondary hydroxyl group¹⁸ and the mono-substituted intermediate (Scheme 3a) was produced predominantly. With the nucleophilic group and the leaving group existing in one linear structure, the intramolecular nucleophilic reaction happened easily to obtain the 2,5-anhydro products **7**¹⁹ (Scheme 3a). To avoid the intramolecular nucleophilic reaction and the formation of 2,5-anhydro products, lower temperature was applied for the synthesis of the di-phosphide intermediate (Scheme 3b). The lower temperature reaction was conducted using diethyl ether-acetonitrile (1:1, v/v) or DCM as solvent which, among many other solvents screened, such as THF and toluene, was found to be best in terms of suspension and reaction yield. An effort to prevent the formation of 2,5-anhydro product 7 by lowering the temperature and prolonging the reaction time led to maximized yield of diiodide compound **6**. As shown in Scheme 4, the ratio and the yield of compounds **6** and **7** varied, as the reaction time was prolonged at the same temperature. After stirring at -30 °C for 48 h and a subsequent reaction time of 2 h in refluxing toluene, diiodide compound **6** was obtained in 90% yield.

With the key diiodide compound **6** in hand, azido-iodide compound **8**,¹⁶ instead of diazido compound, was synthesized selectively and conveniently using sodium azide in DMF under 50 °C for 3 h. After reduction and ring-closure simultaneously, the secondary amine was protected by Boc for purification. Deprotection of Boc by AcCl/MeOH and subsequent debenzylation using Pd/C under hydrogen atmosphere afforded compound **1**²⁰ in nearly quantitative yield.

Afterward, the diiodide product 12^{21} (P/E = 10:1, R_f = 0.8) was synthesized from arabinose with high yield and simple operation to further demonstrate the efficiency of this general application (Scheme 5). As an important intermediate for the synthesis of salasinol, the corresponding thiosugar 13^{22} was prepared with an overall yield of 92%.

To test the feasibility of this approach, the developed protocol was further applied to the six-membered aza-sugars' synthesis. However, a complex mixture of elimination products was obtained with no trace of the corresponding diiodide and the major product **14** was separated and characterized. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the compound reported in the literature.²³ The remote group participation of methyloxyl and benzyloxyl groups has been disclosed in previous synthesis.²⁴ It was hypothesized that intramolecular participation of the 4-O-benzyl group led to the formation of oxonium ion intermediate (Scheme 6), which was attacked by the iodide ion to form **14** and benzyl iodide. The spectroscopic data of the benzyl iodide product supported this hypothesis.

In summary, we have developed a novel and efficient synthesis of stereo-controlled benzyloxylated-diiopentane which was the key intermediate of carbohydrate mimetics' synthesis. The most important feature of this system was to simultaneously convert two hydroxyl groups into iodic groups as leaving ligands and reverse the stereochemistry of the 4-OH with high yield. This method is practical for the large scale synthesis of poly-benzylated-diiopentanes and imino-sugar derivatives available to the carbohydrate mimetics research.



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (a) PPh₃/I₂, 90% for 6 and 7 (Scheme 4); (b) NaN₃, 90%; (c) (i) PPh₃/H₂O, THF, (ii) Boc₂O/NaOH, 82%, (d) AcCl/MeOH (100%); (e) Pd/C, H₂ (97%).



Scheme 3. (a) The pathway of ring closure; (b) the pathway of diiodide reaction.



Scheme 4. The varied yield of diiodide compound.



Scheme 5. The synthesis of diiodide compound 12 from arabinose.



Scheme 6. Proposed mechanism for remote group participation reaction.

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Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet-let.2013.02.115. These data include MOL files and InChiKeys of the most important compounds described in this article.

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 Spectroscopic data for 6: (2S3S4R)-13.4-tribenzyloxy-2.5-diiodopentane ¹H
- 15. Spectroscopic data for **6**: (2S,3S,4R)-1,3,4-tribenzyloxy-2,5-diiodopentane ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.44–7.26 (m, 15H), 4.85 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.75–4.69 (m, 2H), 4.56 (t, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (t, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87–3.78 (m, 2H), 3.60–3.54 (m, 2H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 137.98, 137.52, 137.21, 128.47, 128.44, 128.20, 128.04, 127.89, 127.86, 127.77, 127.58, 79.36, 78.06, 74.96, 72.73, 72.67,71.78, 35.82, 9.06. HRMS Calcd for C₂₆H₃₂I₂NO₃ *m*/z: 660.0472 (M+NH₄)*. Found: 660.0446.
- 16. Spectroscopic data for **8**: (2S,3S,4S)-5-azido-1,3,4-tri (benzyloxy)-2-iodopentane ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.38–7.25 (m, 15H), 4.76–4.73 (m, 2H), 4.69–4.61 (m, 3H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86–3.78 (m, 2H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 9.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 138.05, 137.62, 137.54, 128.69, 128.65, 128.60, 128.54, 128.47, 128.30, 128.22, 128.13, 128.05, 127.91, 127.77, 81.73, 75.78, 74.64, 73.02, 72.95, 72.76, 49.78, 35.54. HRMS Calcd for C₂₆H₃₂IN₄O₃ *m/z*: 575.1519 (M+NH₄)⁺, Found: 575.1511.
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- Spectroscopic data for 12: (25,35,45)-1,3,4-tribenzyloxy-2,5-diiodopentane ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.35-7.30(m, 15H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (ddd, *J* = 2.8, 5.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 4, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 10.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 138.27, 137.65, 137.64, 128.41, 128.32, 128.11, 127.87, 127.77, 127.72, 127.68, 127.61, 82.06, 79.18, 74.73,
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