STEREOSPECIFIC SYNTHESIS OF (-)-*allo*-MUSCARINE FROM D-GLUCOSE: NOVEL ROUTES TO THE KEY CHIRAL SYNTHON

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The key chiral synthon in a novel synthesis of (-)-*allo*-muscarine from D-glucose has been prepared by three independent routes. The most efficient one includes a four-step conversion *via* the 4-*O*-benzoyl derivatives of starting 2,5-anhydro-3,5-di-*O*-methanesulfonyl-L-idose ethylene acetal (**2a**) into 2,5-anhydro-3,6-dideoxy-L-*lyxo*-hexose ethylene acetal (**4b**). The intermediate **4b** was efficiently converted into the chiral synthon 2,5-anhydro-4-*O*-benzoyl-3,6-dideoxy-L-*arabino*-hexose (**4c**) by Mitsunobu reaction.

Key words: 2,5-Anhydro sugars; D-Glucose; (-)-allo-Muscarine; 3,6-Thioanhydro sugars.

(–)-*allo*-Muscarine (1) is a C-2 epimer of (+)-muscarine which occurs in the mushroom *Amanita muscaria*¹, and shows cholinomimetic activity². There is a renewed interest in the muscarinic field due to the discovery of a relationship between cholinergic deficits and the pathology of Alzheimer's disease³. The synthesis of muscarine and many of its analogues have been reviewed⁴, but only few syntheses of (–)-*allo*-muscarine (1) have been achieved so far⁵. Recently we have completed a stereospecific synthesis of 1 based on D-glucose as a chiral precursor⁶. However, due to some relatively low-yield steps in the reported route⁶, new efforts have been made in order to improve the preparation of the key chiral intermediate **4c** and (–)-*allo*-muscarine (1) itself. We now report two independent routes, one *via* intermediate **3b** and second *via* **4b** with three alternative in **4b** preparation, towards the key chiral synthon in an alternative synthesis of (–)-*allo*-muscarine from D-glucose.

Ethylene acetal of 2,5-anhydro-3,5-di-*O*-methanesulfonyl-L-idose (**2a**) which is readily available from D-glucose⁷ was treated with triflic anhydride in pyridine and dichloromethane whereupon the corresponding 4-triflate **2b** was obtained in 93% yield. The earlier findings⁸ that some sugar triflates when reacted with sodium nitrite in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide gave the corresponding *epi*-hydroxy compounds prompted us to investigate the possible use of this reagent for conversion of **2b** into the corresponding alcohol with inverted configuration. A treatment of **2b** with sodium nitrite in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide afforded the corresponding 2,5-anhydro-L-altrose derivative **2c** in a yield of only 29%. Reaction of **2c** with benzoyl chloride in pyridine gave the corresponding 4-*O*-benzoyl derivative **2d**, which was further treated with sodium hydrogen sulfide in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide to afford the bicyclic oxathiane derivative **3b** (25% from **2c**). The intermediate **3b** was alternatively also prepared by direct sodium hydrogen sulfide mediated cyclization of **2c** to alcohol **3a** which was subsequently benzoylated to give **3b** (38% from **2c**). Raney nickel desulfurization of **3b** afforded the chiral synthon **4c** (67%) with all chiral centers corresponding to (–)-*allo*-muscarine (**1**).



 $Ms = CH_3SO_2$, $Tf = CF_3SO_2$

Although the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data as well as the optical rotation of **4c** were in good agreement with those already reported⁶, the relatively low overall yield of the present route (6.9% from **2a**) prompted a further study directed towards preparation of **4c** by an alternative synthetic sequence *via* the 3,6-dideoxy derivative **4b** as a key intermediate.

Successive inter- and intramolecular attack of hydrogen sulfide anion on trimesylate⁶ **2e** led to the bicyclic oxathiane derivative **3c**, which was immediately treated with sodium methoxide in methanol to afford the corresponding alcohol **3d** (33% from **2e**). Raney nickel desulfurization of **3d** gave the expected 3,6-dideoxy derivative **4b** in an overall yield of 27% with respect to trimesylate **2e**. However, when the intermediate **3d**

was prepared directly from **2a** (by its treatment with NaSH in DMF), the same intermediate **4b** was obtained in an overall yield of 35% related to starting compound **2a**.

Finally, the best overall yield of desired intermediate **4b** has been achieved by alternative chemical transformations of dimesylate **2a** under the conditions similar to those already reported⁷. Treatment of **2a** with benzoyl chloride in pyridine gave the corresponding 4-*O*-benzoyl derivative **2f**, which was immediately treated with sodium hydrogen sulfide in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide to give the expected oxathiane derivative **3e**. Raney nickel desulfurization of **3e** to the corresponding 3,6-dideoxy derivative **4a** was followed by the subsequent debenzoylation of **4a** to **4b**. All four steps concerning the conversion of **2a** to **4b** were carried out successively, whereupon the intermediates **2f**, **3e**, and **4a** were used in the subsequent steps without any purification. Pure product **4b** was isolated by column chromatography in an overall yield of 63% related to the starting compound **2a**.

Alcohol **4b** readily reacted with triphenylphosphine, diethyl azodicarboxylate and benzoic acid, under standard Mitsunobu⁹ conditions, to afford the chiral synthon **4c** in 82% yield.

In conclusion, the sequence which uses the crude 4-O-benzoyl derivatives (2f, 3e, and 4a) as intermediates is the most convenient route towards the key chiral intermediate 4c since it provides the highest overall yield of the final product (52% from 2a) achieved by a simple preparative procedure. This result represents a significant improvement in respect to the reported route⁶ which afforded the chiral synthon 4c in a much lower overall yield⁶ (23% in respect to the same starting compound 2a).

Since (-)-*allo*-muscarine has already been obtained⁶ from 4-*O*-benzoyl derivative **4c**, the chemical transformations described in this paper formally represent an alternative synthesis of (-)-*allo*-muscarine from D-glucose.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined on a Büchi SMP 20 apparatus and were not corrected. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin–Elmer 141 MC polarimeter at 23 °C in chloroform solutions. NMR spectra (¹H at 250 MHz and ¹³C at 62.9 MHz) were recorded on a Bruker AC 250 E instrument in deuteriochloroform. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm (δ -scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane. Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz. Column chromatography (Kieselgel 60 under 0.063 mm; Merck) and flash column chromatography (ICN Silica 32-63) were carried out with the following solvent mixtures: Petroleum ether–Me₂CO, 4 : 1 (S1); CH₂Cl₂–Me₂CO, 9 : 1 (S2); 49 : 1 (S3), 99 : 1 (S4), 4 : 1 (S5); Et₂O (S6); toluene–Me₂CO, 49 : 1 (S7), 4 : 1 (S8); CHCl₃ (S9); hexane–EtOAc, 1 : 1 (S10); toluene–EtOAc, 4 : 1 (S11); CH₂Cl₂–EtOAc, 49 : 1 (S12). All organic extracts were dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Organic solutions were concentrated in a rotary evaporator under diminished pressure at bath temperature 30–35 °C.

2,5-Anhydro-3,6-di-O-methanesulfonyl-4-O-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-L-idose Ethylene Acetal (2b)

To a stirred and ice-cooled solution of dimesylate **2a** (2.6 g; 7.2 mmol) in dry pyridine (3.6 ml; 44.7 mmol) and dichloromethane (60 ml) was added trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (2.6 ml; 15.5 mmol) in

portions. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h then diluted with dichloromethane (60 ml), washed successively with aqueous 10% hydrochloric acid (50 ml) and water (4 × 100 ml), dried and evaporated. Flash chromatography (S1) of the residue gave pure **2b** (3.3 g; 93%) as a white solid. Recrystallization from methanol afforded an analytical sample **2b** as colourless needles, m.p. 94 °C, $[\alpha]_D - 1.2^\circ$ (*c* 0.5). ¹H NMR spectrum: 3.10 s and 3.17 s, 2 × 3 H (2 × CH₃SO₂); 3.89–4.1 m, 4 H (dioxolane CH₂); 4.25 dd, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 5.3, *J*(2,3) = 4.7 (H-2); 4.34 dd, 1 H, *J*(6a,6b) = 11.1, *J*(5,6a) = 6.3 (H-6a); 4.49 dd, 1 H, *J*(5,6b) = 5.5 (H-6b); 4.74 ddd, 1 H, *J*(4,5) = 4.2, *J*(5,6a) = 6.3, *J*(5,6b) = 5.5 (H-5); 5.14 d, 1 H (H-1); 5.3 dd, 1 H, *J*(2,3) = 4.7, *J*(3,4) = 2.5 (H-3); 5.62 dd, 1 H (H-4). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 37.39 and 38.03 (2 × CH₃SO₂), 64.97 (C-6), 65.24 and 65.37 (dioxolane CH₂), 76.38 (C-5), 78.71 (C-2), 80.12 (C-3), 86.6 (C-4), 100.99 (C-1), 118.11 q, ¹*J*(C,F) = 320 (CF₃SO₂). For C₁₁H₁₇F₃O₁₂S₃. CH₃OH (526.5) calculated: 27.38% C, 4.02% H, 18.27% S; found: 27.23% C, 3.76% H, 18.23% S.

2,5-Anhydro-3,6-di-O-methanesulfonyl-L-altrose Ethylene Acetal (2c)

To a solution of triflate **2b** (1.8 g; 3.6 mmol) in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (20 ml) was added finely powdered sodium nitrite (4.0 g; 58.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 24 h at 35 °C, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (S2) of the residue yielded pure **2c** (0.38 g; 29%) as colorless oil. The oily residue was crystallized from dichloromethane–hexane to give an analytical sample of **2c** as colorless needles, m.p. 116 °C, $[\alpha]_D + 0.8^\circ$ (*c* 0.2). ¹H NMR spectrum: 3.08 s and 3.18 s, 2 × 3 H (2 × CH₃SO₂); 3.46 d, 1 H, *J*(4,OH) = 7.4 (OH); 3.88–4.08 m, 4 H (dioxolane CH₂); 4.11 dd, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 5.5, *J*(2,3) = 4.2 (H-2); 4.18 m, 1 H, *J*(5,6a) = 3.4, *J*(5,6b) = 2.6 (H-5); 4.37 dd, 1 H, *J*(5,6a) = 3.4, *J*(6a,6b) = 11.6 (H-6a); 4.4 m, 1 H, *J*(3,4) = 4.5 (H-4); 4.47 dd, 1 H, *J*(5,6b) = 2.6, *J*(6a,6b) = 11.6 (H-6b); 5.13 d, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 5.5 (H-1); 5.21 dd, 1 H, *J*(2,3) = 4.2, *J*(3,4) = 4.5 (H-3). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 37.52 and 38.89 (2 × CH₃SO₂), 65.27 and 65.46 (dioxolane CH₂), 68.34 (C-6), 70.92 (C-4), 79.07 (C-2), 80.29 (C-5), 80.91 (C-3), 101.60 (C-1). For C₁₀H₁₈O₁₀S₂ (362.4) calculated: 33.15% C, 5.01% H, 17.66% S; found: 32.78% C, 4.71% H, 17.23% S.

2,5-Anhydro-4-O-benzoyl-3,6-di-O-methanesulfonyl-L-altrose Ethylene Acetal (2d)

To a solution of hydroxy derivative **2c** (0.48 g; 1.3 mmol) in dry pyridine (5 ml) was added benzoyl chloride (0.50 ml; 4.3 mmol). The mixture was stored at room temperature for 24 h, then acidified with aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 : 1; 15 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (4 × 10 ml). The extracts were combined, successively washed with water and saturated aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate, dried and concentrated to an oil. Flash chromatography (S6) of the residue gave **2d** (0.5 g; 81%) as a colorless syrup, $[\alpha]_D - 12.9^\circ$ (*c* 0.2). ¹H NMR spectrum: 3.09 s and 3.11 s, 2 × 3 H (2 × CH₃SO₂); 3.86–4.15 m, 4 H (dioxolane CH₂); 4.16 dd, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 6.6, *J*(2,3) = 3.2 (H-2); 4.45 dd, 1 H, *J*(6a,6b) = 11.2, *J*(5,6a) = 3.2 (H-6a); 4.49–4.69 m, 2 H, *J*(5,6b) = 2.2, *J*(4,5) = 8.4 (H-5 and H-6b); 5.21 d, 1 H (H-1); 5.44 t, 1 H, *J*(2,3) = 3.2, *J*(3,4) = 3.4 (H-3); 5.61 dd, 1 H, *J*(3,4) = 3.4, *J*(4,5) = 8.4 (H-4); 7.41–8.20 m, 5 H (ArH). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 37.33 and 38.7 (2 × CH₃SO₂), 65.01 and 65.2 (dioxolane CH₂), 68.14 (C-6), 70.96 (C-4), 77.4 (C-5), 79.63 (C-2), 80.00 (C-3), 101.41 (C-1), 128.38, 129.96 and 133.60 (ArC), 165.50 (C=O).

2,5-Anhydro-3,6-thioanhydro-L-mannose Ethylene Acetal (3a)

To a solution of dimesylate **2c** (0.145 g; 0.40 mmol) in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (3 ml) was added NaSH monohydrate (0.15 g; 2.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred in an atmosphere of nitrogen at 90 °C for 1.5 h, then poured into aqueous 10% NaHCO₃ (10 ml) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (4 × 10 ml). The combined extracts were washed with water (2 × 20 ml), dried and evaporated to a brown oil.

2,5-Anhydro Sugars

Flash chromatography (S3) of the residue (0.05 g) yielded pure product **3a** (0.039 g; 48%) as a paleyellow syrup, $[\alpha]_D - 256.4^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.1). ¹H NMR spectrum: 2.89 dd, 1 H, *J*(6a,6b) = 10.9, *J*(5,6a) = 1 (H-6a); 2.98 dd, 1 H, *J*(5,6b) = 2.4, *J*(6a,6b) = 10.9 (H-6b); 3.14 d, 1 H, *J*(3,4) = 1.3 (H-3); 3.88–4.12 m, 4 H (dioxolane CH₂); 4.38 m, 2 H (H-4 and H-5); 4.58 d, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 2.3 (H-2); 4.78 d, 1 H, *J*(4,OH) = 9.9 (OH); 5.05 d, 1 H (H-1). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 32.44 (C-6), 45.43 (C-3), 65.35 and 65.56 (dioxolane CH₂), 79.20 (C-4), 80.25 (C-5), 88.53 (C-2), 102.37 (C-1).

2,5-Anhydro-4-O-benzoyl-3,6-thioanhydro-L-mannose Ethylene Acetal (3b)

A) Treatment of 4-O-benzoyl derivative 2d (0.44 g; 0.94 mmol) with NaSH monohydrate (0.35 g; 4.7 mmol) in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (10 ml) for 4 h, under the same reaction conditions as described above for 3a, afforded crude 3b (0.4 g). Column chromatography (40 g; S7) gave pure product 3b (0.09 g; 31%) as a pale-yellow syrup.

B) Following the procedure described above for **2d**, a solution of **3a** (0.045 g; 0.22 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (0.10 ml; 0.86 mmol) in dry pyridine (1 ml) gave crude product **3b**. Flash chromatography (S9) afforded pure product **3b** (0.054 g; 79%) as a bright-yellow syrup, $[\alpha]_D - 39.6^\circ$ (*c* 2.1). ¹H NMR spectrum: 3.02 dd, 1 H, *J*(6a,6b) = 10.8, *J*(5,6a) = 1 (H-6a); 3.11 dd, 1 H, *J*(5,6b) = 2.3, *J*(6a,6b) = 10.8 (H-6b); 3.64 d, 1 H, *J*(3,4) = 1.5 (H-3); 3.68–4.02 m, 4 H (dioxolane CH₂); 4.33 d, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 7.2 (H-2); 4.79 m, 1 H (H-5); 5.09 d, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 7.2 (H-1); 5.44 d, 1 H, *J*(3,4) = 1.5 (H-4); 7.35–8.06 m, 5 H (ArH). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 32.82 (C-6), 44.83 (C-3), 64.91 and 65.34 (dioxolane CH₂), 78.17 (C-5), 79.77 (C-4), 89.99 (C-2), 102.96 (C-1), 128.63, 129.44, 129.77 and 133.53 (ArC), 165.84 (C=O).

2,5-Anhydro-3,6-thioanhydro-L-talose Ethylene Acetal (3d)

A) Treatment of trimesylate⁶ **2e** (3.47 g; 7.9 mmol) with NaSH monohydrate (4.58 g; 61.9 mmol) in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (23 ml) for 3 h under the same reaction conditions as described above for **3a** afforded crude oxathiane **3c** (1.2 g) which was immediately treated with 1.6 M solution of NaOMe in MeOH (15 ml) for 3 h at reflux temperature. The reaction mixture was acidified with glacial AcOH to pH 6 and concentrated. The residue was partitioned between CH_2Cl_2 (15 ml) and water (20 ml). The organic layer was separated and aqueous solution extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 × 15 ml). The combined extracts were dried and evaporated to a yellow syrup. Column chromatography (100 g; S4) of the residue afforded pure product **3d** (0.45 g; 33%) as a colorless syrup.

B) Treatment of dimesylate **2a** (2.5 g; 6.9 mmol) with NaSH monohydrate (2.5 g; 33.78 mmol) in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (30 ml) for 24 h, under the same reaction conditions as described above for **3a** yielded crude product **3d**. Column chromatography (140 g; S10) of the residue (1.4 g) yielded pure product **3d** (0.6 g; 43%) as a colorless syrup, $[\alpha]_D - 24.5^\circ$ (*c* 1.2). ¹H NMR spectrum: 2.68 d, 1 H, *J*(4,OH) = 10.3 (OH); 3.00 m, 2 H (2 H-6); 3.38 d, 1 H, *J*(3,4) = 2.4 (H-3); 3.83–4.05 m, 4 H (dioxolane CH₂); 4.2 d, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 4.4 (H-2); 4.34 m, 1 H (H-5); 4.74 m, 1 H (H-4); 4.80 d, 1 H (H-1). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 34.1 (C-6), 49.6 (C-3), 64.9 and 65.1 (dioxolane CH₂), 73.5 (C-4), 77.5 (C-5), 87.5 (C-2), 102.5 (C-1).

2,5-Anhydro-3,6-dideoxy-L-lyxo-hexose Ethylene Acetal (4b)

A) A suspension of compound **3d** (1.08 g; 5.29 mmol) and Raney nickel (10 ml) in ethanol (30 ml) was hydrogenated at 85–90 °C and normal pressure of H_2 for 1 h. The mixture was diluted with a mixture of EtOAc–EtOH (1 : 1, 60 ml), filtered through a Celite pad and the catalyst was washed with mixture of EtOAc–EtOH (1 : 1, 80 ml). The filtrate and washing were combined and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was treated with boiling CH₂Cl₂ (20 ml), then filtered and the solvent evaporated.

Column chromatography (80 g; S5) of the residue (0.9 g) afforded pure compound **4b** (0.76 g; 82%) as a colorless syrup.

B) A solution of alcohol **2a** (0.50 g; 1.4 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (0.40 ml; 3.4 mmol) in dry pyridine (5 ml) was left at room temperature for 24 h. After the usual workup, the residue (0.85 g of crude **2f**) was treated with NaSH monohydrate (0.6 g; 8.1 mmol) in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (10 ml) for 3 h, according to the procedure described above for **3a**. The crude oxathiane **3e** (0.5 g) thus obtained was dissolved in ethanol (15 ml) and hydrogenated in the presence of Raney nickel suspension (5 ml) at 80 °C for 1 h, whereupon the corresponding 3,6-dideoxy derivative **4a** was formed. To the reaction mixture was then added NaOH (0.07 g) and the stirring continued for 0.5 h at 80 °C. After workup as described above (procedure *A*), the remaining crude **4b** (0.248 g) was purified by column chromatography (30 g; S8) to afford pure product **4b** (0.151 g; 63%) as a colorless syrup, $[\alpha]_D$ +19.5° (*c* 1.9). ¹H NMR spectrum: 1.22 d, 3 H, *J*(5,6) = 6.4 (Me-5); 2.05 m, 2 H (2 H-3); 2.26 bs, 1 H (OH); 3.84–4.04 m, 5 H (dioxolane CH₂ and H-5); 4.17 ddd, 1 H, *J*(4,5) = 3, *J*(3a,4) = 1.9, *J*(3b,4) = 4.2 (H-4); 4.19 ddd, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 4.2, *J*(2,3a) = 7.5, *J*(2,3b) = 8.2 (H-2); 4.84 d, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 4.2 (H-1). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 14.0 (C-6), 36.2 (C-3), 65.1 and 65.4 (dioxolane CH₂), 73.6 (C-4), 77.0 (C-2), 78.9 (C-5), 104.8 (C-1).

2,5-Anhydro-4-O-benzoyl-3,6-dideoxy-L-arabino-hexose (4c)

A) To a solution of compound **3b** (0.054 g; 0.17 mmol) in EtOH (5 ml) was added a suspension of Raney nickel (1 ml). The mixture was hydrogenated under the same reaction conditions as described above for **4b** (procedure A). After the usual workup, the remaining crude **4c** was purified by column chromatography (10 g; S7) to afford pure product **4c** (0.032 g; 67%) as a colorless syrup.

B) To a stirred and ice-cooled solution of alcohol **4b** (0.20 g; 1.2 mmol), benzoic acid (0.30 g; 2.5 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (1.30 g; 5.0 mmol) in dry THF (20 ml) was added dropwise a solution of diethyl azodicarboxylate (1.0 ml; 6.4 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 20 min and then at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated off and the residue was column chromatographed (100 g; S11), to afford **4c** contamined with an equal amount of aromatic impurities as estimated by NMR. Repeated column chromatography (50 g; S12) of the mixture yielded pure product **4c** (0.25 g; 82%) as a colorless syrup, $[\alpha]_D - 4.2^\circ$ (*c* 2.8). ¹H NMR spectrum: 1.29 d, 3 H, *J*(5,6) = 6.7 (Me-5); 2.15 ddd, 1 H, *J*(3a,3b) = 14, *J*(2,3a) = 3.7, *J*(3a,4) = 3.6 (H-3a); 2.61 ddd, 1 H, *J*(2,3b) = 7, *J*(3a,3b) = 14, *J*(3b,4) = 6.8 (H-3b); 3.86–4.07 m, 4 H (dioxolane CH₂); 4.13 ddd, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 5.4, *J*(2,3a) = 3.7, *J*(2,3b) = 7 (H-2); 4.36 m, 1 H (H-5); 5.0 d, 1 H, *J*(1,2) = 5.4 (H-1); 5.15 ddd, 1 H, *J*(3a,4) = 3.6, *J*(3b,4) = 6.8, *J*(4,5) = 3.7 (H-4); 7.30–8.10 m, 5 H (ArH). ¹³C NMR spectrum: 18.64 (C-6), 32.57 (C-3), 65.23 and 65.4 (dioxolane CH₂), 77.95 (C-2), 79.34 (C-4), 80.02 (C-5), 104.59 (C-1), 128.36, 129.58, 129.75 and 133.11 (ArC), 166.1 (C=O).

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