

Synthesis and Anti-Hepatitis B Virus Activity of Some 2,3-Dihydroxyprop-1-yl Unnatural Hetaryls

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Summary

The sodium salts of some hetaryls of the quinoxalin-2-ones **2–4**, phthalazine-1,4-dione **5**, phthalazin-1-one **6**, and pyridazin-6-ones **7** and **8** were alkylated with ($\pm$) 2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-1-*O*-(4-toluenesulfonyl)glycerol (**1**) to give the respective *tetraseco*-nucleosides **9–15**. Their deisopropylidenation with 70% acetic acid in water gave the corresponding 2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl hetaryls **16–22**. Compounds **16–22** showed varying inhibition activity against Hepatitis B virus (HBV) with low to moderate cytotoxicity, where **18** and **21** showed the highest replication inhibition and low cytotoxicity.

Introduction

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection has a great degree of prominence due to the wide prevalence of the disease and the lack of an ideal drug to combat the virus, especially in chronic infections which can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and/or hepatocellular carcinoma. In such carriers vaccination is not an effective therapy and alpha interferon has demonstrated some promise^[1–6]. Nucleoside analogues and particularly the unnatural L-configuration have emerged as potential anti-HBV agents with more promising pharmacological and toxicological profiles^[3,7–13] than their D-counterparts. Thus, 2'-fluoro-5-methyl- β -L-arabino furanosyluracil (B-L-FMAU) is considered as a clinical candidate for treatment of chronic HBV infections^[3,6,14], and is undergoing preclinical toxicology studies^[15]. The 2',3'-dideoxy- β -L-cytidine (β -L-ddc) and its 5-fluoro analogue (β -L-FddC) demonstrated equally potent activity against HBV in vitro, having the same ED₅₀ value of 0.01 μ M. The unusual group of nucleosides such as L-SddC[(–)-BCH-189] in which the 3'-CH₂ group has been replaced by a hetero-atom^[7,16–22] exhibits potent anti-HBV and HIV activity in vitro. The compounds are undergoing clinical trials in patients with AIDS and AIDS related complex. The L-like BCH-189 is more potent than the D-like counterpart^[7,10,12].

Considerable effort has been devoted to the synthesis of acyclo-nucleoside analogues which possess potent selective antiherpes activity^[23,24]. The S-enantiomer of 9-(2,3-dihydroxypropyl)adenine^[25] (S-DHPA) was found to have inhibitory activity towards a number of DNA and RNA viruses. More recently, the phosphonate derivative 9-(3-hydroxy-2(S)-phosphonylmethoxypropyl)adenine (S-HPMPA) and its analogues have been found to exhibit potent antiviral effects^[26]. Since the trend for anti-HBV activity was similar to that for anti-HIV activity^[12], and there is a great demand for

the development of novel compounds with anti-HBV activity and minimal adverse effects on the host, the present work deals with the synthesis and biological activity of the 2,3-dihydroxypropyl derivatives of some hetaryls.

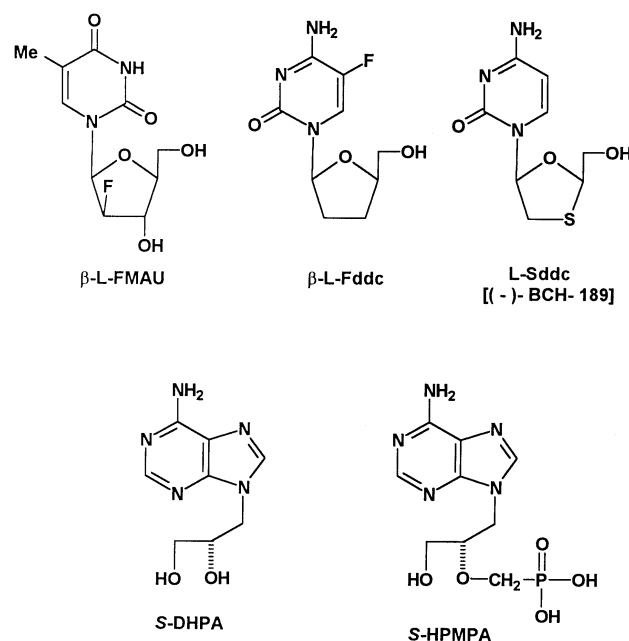


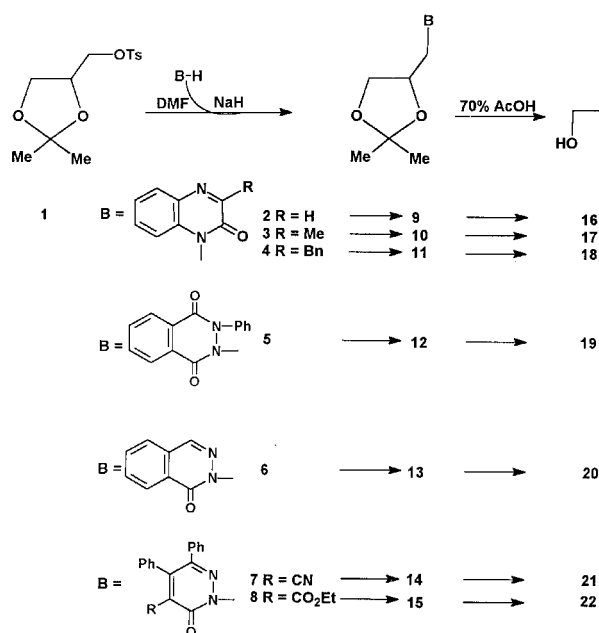
Figure 1

Chemistry

Synthesis of the target nucleosides has been achieved by the nucleophilic displacement of a leaving group on a suitably protected derivative of the propanediol by a suitable hetaryl. Thus, ($\pm$)-2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-1-*O*-(4-toluenesulfonyl)glycerol (**1**) was selected as the precursor for their synthesis. It was prepared by 4-toluenesulfonylation of 2,3-*O*-isopropylidene glycerol^[27].

The selected bases for this study were of the pyrazine or the pyridazine type and their benzo analogues, which are fragments frequently reported in a wide variety of biologically active compounds. Thus, the conversion of the bases quinoxalinones, phthalazinedione, phthalazinone, and the pyridazinone **2–8** into the respective sodium salts was carried out by heating their solutions in *N,N*-dimethylformamide with sodium hydride. Treatment of the aforementioned salts with ($\pm$)-2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-1-*O*-(4-toluenesulfonyl)glycerol

(1) gave the (±)-2,3-isopropylidene-dihydroxypropyl derivatives of the quinoxalinones **9–11**, phthalazinedione **12**, phthalazinone **13**, and the pyridazinones **14** and **15** (Scheme 1). Deprotection of the isopropylidene groups was effected with 70% acetic acid in water to give the corresponding (±)-2,3-dihydroxypropyl hetaryls **16–22**, respectively. The isopropylidene derivatives of phthalazinone and some quinoxalinone analogues were not isolated, but converted immediately to the respective 2,3-dihydroxypropyl nucleosides. The structures of the isopropylidene derivatives have been confirmed by analyzing their ¹H-NMR spectral data. They showed the presence of two singlets appearing at the high magnetic field in the range 1.26–1.40 and 1.34–1.49 ppm, respectively, corresponding to the two methyl groups of the isopropylidene residue. The difference in their chemical shifts ($\Delta\delta$) lies in the range 0.08–0.14 ppm, which is in agreement with that required ($\Delta\delta > 0.05$) for α -terminal isopropylidene derivatives^[28]. The higher value of $\Delta\delta$ in such terminal derivatives is due to the interaction of the bulky substituent on the dioxolane ring with only one of the two methyl groups. The deprotected derivatives showed the absence of the signals corresponding to the isopropylidene residue. The presence of signals due to the propyl residue and the hetaryl groups confirmed the successful nucleophilic displacement of the tosyloxy group in **1**.



Scheme 1

Biological Activities

Compounds **16–22** were tested for their activity against Hepatitis B virus (HBV) in Hep G₂ 2.2.15 cell. The concentrations for the tested compounds were 10 M. Compounds **18** and **21** showed high inhibition activity (Table 1) and low cytotoxicity. Compounds **17**, **19**, and **22** showed high inhibition activity with moderate cytotoxicity, while compounds **16** and **20** showed moderate viral replication inhibition and low cytotoxicity.

Table 1. Inhibition of HBV replication by 10 μ M of selected compounds.

Compd.	% Inhibition			Cytotoxicity
	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	
16	30.9	30.3	30.1	7.7
17	80.9	80.3	71.3	13.5
18	87.1	83.9	80.5	5.5
19	81.3	80.0	72.1	14.3
20	33.2	31.1	28.9	8.1
21	81.8	79.8	78.3	5.3
22	78.6	77.7	70.5	16.7

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Experimental Part

Melting points were determined with a Meltemp apparatus 76-mm immersion thermometer and are uncorrected. TLC was performed on Baker flex silica gel 60 F-254 precoated plates. Column chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel (0.040–0.063). ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AC 250 and 200 MHz spectrometers, in CDCl₃ using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm relative to TMS and described as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), or bs (broad singlet). Microanalyses were performed by the unit of Microanalysis, Faculty of Science, Cairo University.

2,3-O-Isopropylidene-1-O-(4-toluenesulfonyl)glycerol (**1**)

To a stirred ice-cooled solution of glycerol-1,2-acetonide (7.2 g, 0.05 mol) in pyridine (30 ml), 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride (10.4 g, 0.06 mol) was added portionwise. After standing for 16 h, the solution was diluted with ether (30 ml). The resulting mixture was washed successively with 1 N HCl, water and then saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The ether layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give **1** (13.1 g, 84% yield), ref.^[22] mp 40 °C, mp 41 °C.

General Procedure

(±)-2,3-O-Isopropylidene-2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl Hetaryls (**9–15**)

To a stirred solution of the hetaryls (5.0 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (10 ml) was added NaH (60% dispersed in mineral oil, 0.20 g, 5.0 mmol). After complete evolution of hydrogen, the mixture was heated at 100 °C for 1 h, then **1** (1.43 g, 5.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at 100 °C, cooled to room temperature, and filtered. The solvent was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and 10 ml of water was added to the residue and the product was extracted with ether (3 × 20 ml). The ether layer was dried and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a dark brown gum which was purified by column chromatography using 1% MeOH/CHCl₃.

(±)-1-(2,3-O-Isopropylidene-2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl) (1H)-Quinoxalin-2-one (**9**)

Syrup (40% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 1.26 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.34 (s, H, CH₃), 3.84, 4.10 (2 m, 2H, CH₂), 4.27 (m, 1 H, CH), 4.51 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 7.29 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.55 (m, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.85 (d, 1 H, J = 9.6 Hz, Ar-H), 8.24 (s, 1 H, Ar-H).

(±)-1-(2,3-O-Isopropylidene-2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl)-3-methyl-(1H)-quinoxalin-2-one (10)

Syrup (45% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.39 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 2.59 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.86, 4.13 (2 m, 2 H, CH₂) 4.24 (m, 1 H, CH), 4.54 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 7.33 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.52 (dd, 2H, Ar-H), 7.80 (d, 1 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz, Ar-H).

(±)-3-(2,3-O-Isopropylidene-2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydrophthalazine-1,4-dione (12)

Syrup (40% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 1.40 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.48 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.92 (t, 1 H, *J* = 6.0 Hz, CH₂), 4.16 (t, 1 H, *J* = 6.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.38 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 4.55 (m, 1 H, CH), 7.31 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.45 (m, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.75 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 8.00 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 8.44 (m, 1 H, Ar-H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 25.22 (CH₃), 26.61 (CH₃), 66.28 (CH₂), 67.15 (CH₂), 73.54 (CH), 109.61 (CMe₂), 123.28, 124.19, 125.03, 126.86, 127.40, 128.33, 129.38, 131.97, 132.89, 141.72 (Ar-C), 149.54 (C=O), 158.10 (C=O).

(±)-5-Cyano-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,3-O-isopropylidene-2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl)(1H)-pyridazin-6-one (14)

Syrup (30% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 1.35 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.49 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.95, 4.16 (2 m, 2 H, CH₂), 4.31 (m, 1 H, CH), 4.54 (m, 1 H, CH₂), 7.22 (m, 10 H, Ar-H).

(±)-5-Carbethoxy-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,3-O-isopropylidene-2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl)-(1H)-pyridazin-6-one (15)

Syrup (38% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 0.95 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH₃), 1.33 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.46 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.95 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 4.11 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 4.28 (m, 1 H, CH), 4.48 (m, 1 H, CH₂), 4.62 (m, 1 H, CH₂), 7.23 (m, 10 H, Ar-H).

General Procedure:**(±)-2,3-Dihydroxyprop-1-yl Hetaryls (16–22)**

The isopropylidenes **9–15** (5.0 mmol) were dissolved in 70% AcOH (5.0 ml). The mixture was heated under reflux for 2 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was coevaporated with H₂O (2 × 3 ml) and ethanol (2 × 3 ml). The residual oil was purified by column chromatography using 3% MeOH/CHCl₃.

(±)-1-(2,3-Dihydroxyprop-1-yl)(1H)-quinoxalin-2-one (16)

Syrup (28% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 3.68 (m, 3 H, CH₂, OH), 4.19 (m, 3 H, CH, CH₂), 4.45 (brs, 1 H, OH), 7.60 (m, 5 H, Ar-H).– C₁₁H₁₂N₂O₃ (220.22) Anal. C,H,N.

(±)-1-(2,3-Dihydroxyprop-1-yl)-3-methyl-(1H)-quinoxalin-2-one (17)

Syrup (35% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 2.60 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.54 (m, 4 H, CH₂, CH, OH), 4.90 (brs, 1 H, OH), 4.43 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 7.43 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.70 (m, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.80 (d, 1 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ar-H).– C₁₂H₁₄N₂O₃(234.25) Anal. C,H,N.

(±)-3-Benzyl-1-(2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl)(1H)-quinoxalin-2-one (18)

Syrup (20% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 2.42 (s, 2 H, CH₂), 3.62 (m, 3 H, CH₂, OH) 3.94 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 4.32 (brs, 1 H, OH), 4.53 (m, 1 H, CH), 7.28 (m, 5 H, Ar-H), 7.55 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.76 (m, 2 H, Ar-H), 8.02 (m, 1 H, Ar-H).– C₁₈H₁₈N₂O₃ (310.34) Anal. C,H,N.

(±)-3-(2,3-Dihydroxyprop-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydrophthalazine-1,4-dione (19)

Syrup (30% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 3.71 (m, 4 H, CH₂, 2 OH), 4.11 (m, 1 H, CH), 4.32 (d, 2 H, *J* = 4.0 Hz, CH₂), 7.27 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.39 (t, 2 H, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.66 (m, 4 H, Ar-H), 7.91 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 8.37 (m, 1 H, Ar-H).– C₁₇H₁₆N₂O₄(312.31) Anal. C,H,N.

(±)-2-(2,3-Dihydroxyprop-1-yl)(2H)-phthalazin-1-one (20)

Syrup (25% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 3.46 (m, 3 H, OH, CH₂), 4.03 (m, 3 H, CH, CH₂), 4.51 (brs, 1 H, OH), 7.26 (m, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.73 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 8.34 (m, 1 H, Ar-H).– C₁₁H₁₂N₂O₃ (220.22) Anal. C,H,N. .

(±)-5-Cyano-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl)(1H)-pyridazin-6-one (21)

Syrup (20% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 3.68 (m, 4 H, CH₂, 2 OH), 4.33 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 4.55 (m, 1 H, CH), 7.26 (m, 10 H, Ar-H).– C₂₀H₁₇N₃O₃ (347.36) Anal. C,H,N.

(±)-5-Carbethoxy-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl)(1H)-pyridazin-6-one (22)

Syrup (23% yield). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 0.94 (t, 3 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, CH₃), 3.69 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 4.07 (m, 4H, CH₂, 2 OH), 4.22 (m, 1 H, CH), 4.45 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 7.11 (m, 5 H, Ar-H), 7.25 (m, 5 H, Ar-H).– C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₅ (394.41) Anal. C,H,N.

Biological Activity Studies

Maintenance media (RPMI/Glutamax, 93%; Pencilin + Streptomycin, 1%; Gentamycin, 1%; Fetal/Calf serum, 5% and Geneticin 4 ml/100 ml media) were added to the cell culture (Hep) G₂ 2.2.15 together with the tested compounds (concentration = 10 μM). The supernatant media were collected after one, two, and three weeks for the tested compounds and the controls (Hep G₂ 2.2.15 cells without added compds). The DNA replication was estimated by PCR (polymerase chain reduction) technique which was carried out in three steps: extraction of DNA from supernatant, amplification of DNA by using thermal cycler and finally detection by DIG-ELISA technique. The percent inhibition was calculated by the relation

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = \left(\frac{\text{Inhibition of compd}}{\text{Inhibition of control}} - 1 \right) \times 100$$

The percentage cytotoxicity could be estimated by the relation between the number of the living and dead cells after three weeks counted by the hemocytometer.

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