

## An efficient entry to new sugar modified ketolide antibiotics

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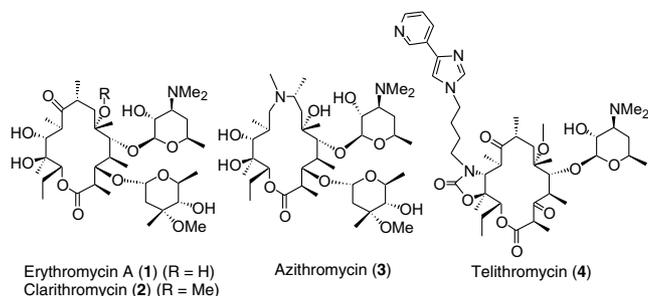
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**Abstract**—A new and efficient route to a ketolide aglycon served as a basis for the unprecedented 5-*O*-glyco-modification of ketolide antibiotics. Combined with an effective copper-catalyzed triazole-forming reaction a series of novel and potent ketolide antibiotics were synthesized.

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Macrolide antibiotics, including erythromycin A (**1**), clarithromycin (**2**), and azithromycin (**3**) (Fig. 1), are important therapeutic agents for the treatment of respiratory tract infections (RTIs) due to their broad spectrum of activity against several dominant respiratory pathogens and their excellent safety profile. However, the widespread use of antibiotics over the past decades has increased the prevalence of macrolide antibiotic-resistant pathogens. It is estimated that by this year, nearly 40% of all *Streptococcus* strains, the major causative pathogen for RTIs, will be resistant to both penicillin and macrolide antibiotics in the US.<sup>1</sup>

Ketolides, a new class of macrolides, have recently been developed having improved antibacterial activities.



**Figure 1.** Macrolide and ketolide antibiotics.

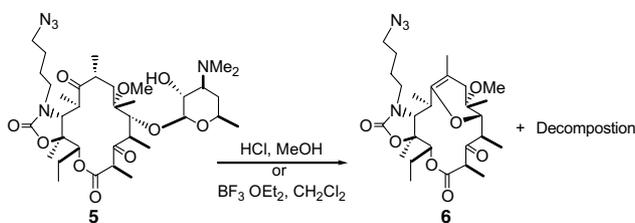
**Keywords:** Ketolide aglycon; Glycosylation; Triazole formation; Antibiotics.

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Their structural features are: (1) lack of 3-*O*-cladinose, (2) presence of 3-keto group, and (3) presence of aromatic functionality to interact with domain II of the bacterial rRNA, as seen in telithromycin (**4**).<sup>2</sup> Although ketolides demonstrate excellent antibacterial activities, they are still prone to ubiquitous resistance mechanisms developed by bacteria; *Erm*-mediated methylation of the bacterial ribosomal RNA whereby the 5-*O*-desosamine plays a key role.<sup>3,4a–c</sup>

We initiated our macrolide discovery program based on the hypothesis that if we could establish a technology by which the 5-*O*-desosamine residue of a ketolide can be replaced with an optimized sugar motif, effective macrolide-based antibiotics could be discovered that are active against these resistant pathogens. We embarked on developing conditions for the following chemical transformations: (1) an efficient procedure for aglycon preparation, (2) facile glycosylation of the 5-OH group, and (3) effective procedure for introducing aromatic functionality for interacting with domain II.

The 5-*O*-desosamine residue has been considered to be critical for the antibacterial activity of macrolide/ketolide antibiotics and there have been only few reports describing the removal or modification of this sugar.<sup>4,5</sup> Attempted forcing acidic conditions to remove the 5-*O*-desosamine commonly results in elimination side products or decomposition of the macrolide core. For example, when ketolide **5** was submitted to HCl in MeOH or BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, ketolide **6** was the only identifiable side product isolated (Scheme 1). Due to the acid sensitivity of the ketolide core and the difficulty



**Scheme 1.** Attempted acidic removal of 5-*O*-desosamine.

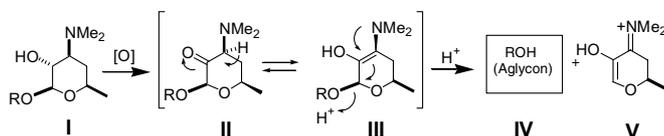
associated with removing the 5-*O*-desosamine sugar from macrolide antibiotics, we focused on developing a new procedure for the efficient removal of the 5-*O*-desosamine from ketolide derivatives. By identifying the unique structural features of desosamine, namely, the 3'-dimethylamino-2'-hydroxy sugar motif (**I**) (Scheme 2), we speculated that the oxidation of the 2'-OH group to the 2'-keto group (**II**) would facilitate tautomerization to generate the 2',3'-enol form (**III**). Subsequent elimination of the glycoside under mild acidic hydrolysis would then generate the desired ketolide aglycon (**IV**). In order to initiate this investigation, we prepared the versatile azide containing synthetic intermediate **5** (Scheme 3), which could be easily transformed into a substituted-triazole containing ketolide, via a [3+2] cycloaddition reaction between an azide and an alkyne.

The synthesis of **5** began with the reaction of the known acylimidazole intermediate **7**<sup>6</sup> with 4-amino-1-butanol in DMF to generate a cyclic carbamate (Scheme 3). As previously described,<sup>7</sup> the reaction of **7** with amines is selective and produces a major isomer. Tosylation of the primary alcohol and subsequent displacement of the tosylate group with NaN<sub>3</sub> in DMF afforded azido-macrolide **8** in 88% overall yield. Removal of the

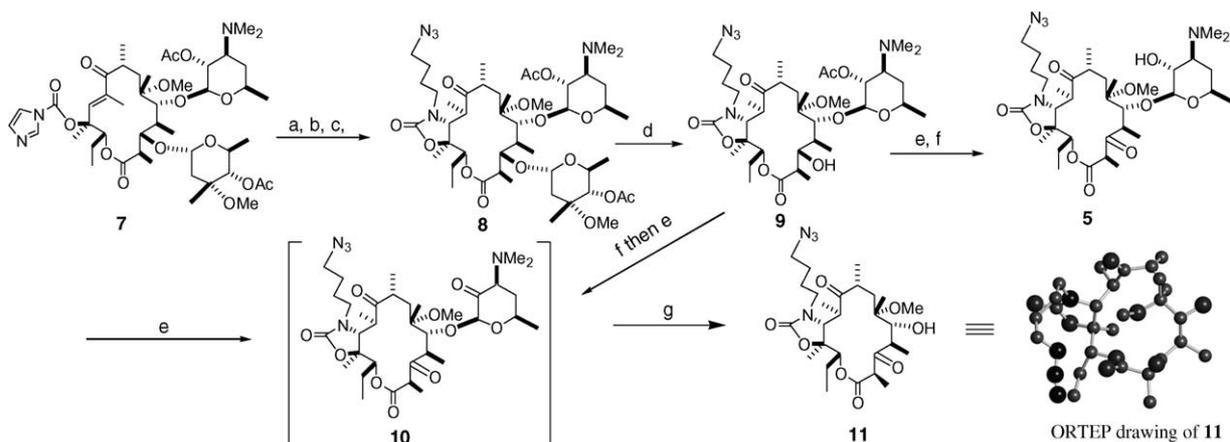
3-*O*-cladinose residue was accomplished using 1 N HCl to give compound **9** in 92% yield. The resulting 3-OH group was oxidized using Swern conditions<sup>8</sup> to give the ketolide and then treated with MeOH to afford **5**.

Ketolide **5** was subjected again to Swern oxidation. Although we had confirmed that the reaction took place by observing an additional carbonyl signal in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, surprisingly, we were unable to isolate **10** in pure form by a silica gel chromatography due to gradual degradation to the expected ketolide aglycon product. Indeed, upon heating **10** in MeOH in the presence of silica gel generated ketolide aglycon **11** in 55%. The structure of **11** was further confirmed by X-ray crystallography.<sup>9</sup> To our delight, we have also found that the one-step bis-Swern oxidation of the diol derivative (deacetylated product of **9**), following methanolysis in silica gel, also effectively afforded the ketolide aglycon **11**.<sup>10</sup>

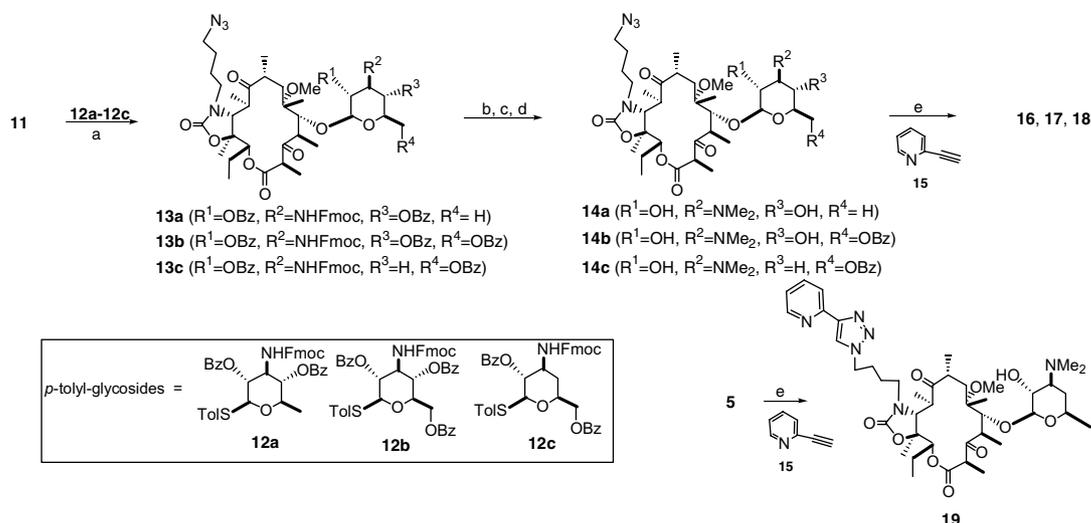
The glycosylation of **11** with sugar derivative **12a–c** (Scheme 4) using NIS/AgOTf afforded the protected glycosylated products **13a–c** in 65–70% yield in ~10:1 anomeric mixture in which the desired β-form was the predominant isomer.<sup>11,12</sup> The Fmoc protecting group was removed by treating with 10% piperidine in DMF and reductive amination was accomplished with NaBH(OAc)<sub>3</sub> and formaldehyde in THF to give the requisite *N,N*-dimethylamine. The glycosylated products having the 2'-OBz and/or 4'-OBz groups were selectively removed by heating in MeOH to give the deprotected adducts **14a–c** in 65–75% yield for the combined three steps. For each of the glycosylated deprotected ketolides, the azide group was reacted with 2-pyridyl acetyl-



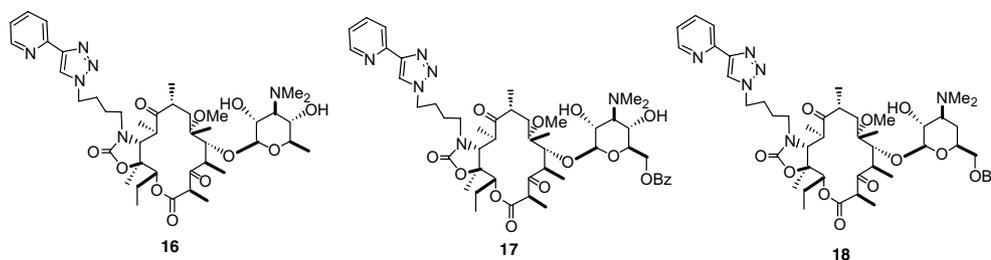
**Scheme 2.** Proposed mechanism for deglycosylation.



**Scheme 3.** Reagents and conditions: (a) 4-amino-1-butanol, DMF, 95%; (b) TsCl, pyridine, 93%; (c) NaN<sub>3</sub>, DMF, 80 °C, 100%; (d) 1 N HCl, MeOH, 92%; (e) (COCl)<sub>2</sub>, DMSO, Et<sub>3</sub>N, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -78 °C to rt, 95%; (f) MeOH, 65 °C, 98%; (g) silica gel, MeOH, N<sub>2</sub>, 65 °C, 55%.



**Scheme 4.** Reagent and conditions: (a) NIS, AgOTf, 2,6-di-*tert*-butylpyridine, 65%; (b) 10% piperidine, 83%; (c) HCHO, NaBH(OAc)<sub>3</sub>, 85%; (d) MeOH, 70 °C, 92%; (e) cat. CuI, toluene, 75 °C, 98%.



**Figure 2.** Newly synthesized ketolides.<sup>14–19</sup>

lene **15** in the presence of catalytic amount of CuI to give a single regioisomer of the triazole adducts, **16**, **17**, and **18** in >95% yield.<sup>13</sup> Similarly, ketolide **5** was converted to **19**, having the natural 5-*O*-desosamine, in 98% yield. Employing this strategy, novel ketolide antibiotics containing new 5-*O*-sugars and having a unique hetero-aromatic triazole substituent were assembled (Fig. 2) and tested for antimicrobial activity. Ketolides **17** and **18** were active against sensitive *S. pneumoniae* (ATCC 49619) (both <0.125 µg/mL) and macrolide resistant *S. pyogenes* (3029, erm) (2 and 0.5 µg/mL, respectively). Ketolide **16** and **19**, containing the naturally occurring sugars, mycaminosamine and desosamine, respectively, were active against *S. pneumoniae* (both <0.125 µg/mL), although they were devoid of activity against *S. pyogenes* (3029, erm) (both >64 µg/mL). From this initial screening, we have identified ketolides having the novel 5-*O*-sugar motif containing an additional 6'-OBz group (**17** and **18**) exhibited excellent antibacterial activities. The results of these microbiological studies will be reported elsewhere.

In summary, mild conditions for preparing ketolide aglycons have been developed, which served as a basis for the unprecedented 5-*O*-glyco-modification of ketolide antibiotics. This work may provide significant opportunities for the design of a new class of macrolide/ketolide-based antibiotics.

## Acknowledgements

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  - Crystallographic data for structure **11** in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication numbers CCDC 250316.
  - We have applied this procedure (Swern oxidation then methanolysis) to telithromycin. The telithromycin aglycon was successfully obtained in 55% yield.
  - The *p*-tolyl glycosides were designed and synthesized in-house. The protecting group scheme (i.e., 2-OBz) was chosen in order to direct the  $\beta$ -configuration at the anomeric center resulting from the glycosylation reaction.
  - General procedure for the glycosylation of aglycon **11**: *N*-Iodosuccinimide (1.5 equiv) was added to a mixture of 11-*N*-(4-azido-butyl)-6-*O*-methyl-5-hydroxy-3-oxo-erythronolide A, 11,12-carbamate **11** (1.0 equiv, 1 mmol), thioglycoside (1.3 equiv), molecular sieves (250 mg), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) at –78 °C. After 10 min, AgOTf (1.7 equiv) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-pyridine (1.8 equiv) were added and the mixture was gradually allowed to warm to rt. After 6–18 h, a 1:1 mixture of satd aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) was added and the mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL) and the resulting layers were separated. The organic layer was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. Purification by silica gel chromatography (toluene–acetone) afforded glycosylated compounds.
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  - Spectroscopic data for compound **6**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.52 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.07–4.04 (m, 1H), 3.85 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.70–3.61 (m, 1H), 3.47–3.38 (m, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 3.09–3.00 (m, 2H), 4.30 (dq, *J* = 10.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz, 1H), 1.90–1.79 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.73–1.48 (m, 4H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.28–1.24 (m, 1H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  206.04, 168.76, 157.56, 148.75, 102.38, 83.67, 78.79, 77.91, 72.31, 60.13, 51.19, 50.79, 49.05, 47.67, 45.69, 38.02, 36.68, 26.57, 24.37, 23.18, 22.84, 17.50, 17.23, 14.99, 14.76, 11.37, 9.65. MS: Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na (M+Na): 557.30, found: 557.22.
  - Spectroscopic data for compound **11**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.93 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72–3.61 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 1H), 3.38–3.28 (m, 2H), 3.15 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 2.67–2.62 (m, 1H), 1.97 (ddt, *J* = 7.6, 5.3, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.70–1.52 (m, 6H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.41 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  216.1, 203.8, 169.3, 157.2, 82.2, 78.4, 77.2, 74.3, 60.3, 51.6, 51.0, 49.7, 47.1, 44.7, 42.9, 39.1, 38.3, 26.2, 24.3, 22.2, 19.9, 18.2, 16.7, 14.7, 14.4, 13.8, 10.4. HRMS (ES): Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>45</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (M+H): 553.3232, found: 553.3222.
  - Spectroscopic data for compound **16**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.57 (ddd, *J* = 4.8, 1.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.16 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 1.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.79–3.56 (m, 3H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.39–3.30 (m, 1H), 3.18–3.02 (m, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 3.65–2.58 (m, 1H), 2.51 (s, 6H), 2.37 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.11–1.50 (m, 8H), 1.35 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.17 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  216.0, 203.6, 169.9, 157.5, 150.7, 149.6, 148.5, 137.0, 122.9, 122.2, 120.4, 103.6, 82.4, 79.3, 78.3, 78.0, 73.6, 71.3, 70.4, 66.7, 60.6, 51.4, 50.2, 50.1, 47.2, 45.0, 42.9, 41.9, 39.7, 39.3, 28.0, 24.4, 22.5, 19.9, 18.6, 18.06, 15.7, 14.9, 14.8, 14.2, 10.7. MS: Calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>65</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (M+H): 829.5, found: 829.4.
  - Spectroscopic data for compound **17**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.57 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.19–8.15 (m, 1H), 8.10–8.00 (m, 2H), 7.77 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.49–4.40 (m, 3H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.76–3.54 (m, 4H), 3.46–3.36 (m, 2H), 3.13–3.04 (m, 2H), 2.58–2.51 (m, 1H), 2.51 (s, 6H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.47 (dd, *J* = 10.1, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 2.03–1.41 (m, 8H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.35 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  215.82, 203.49, 169.90, 167.05, 157.25, 150.40, 149.34, 148.30, 136.84, 133.46, 129.78, 129.68, 128.55, 122.71, 122.00, 120.21, 103.44, 82.21, 77.93, 77.47, 76.71, 75.77, 70.37, 70.14, 66.24, 63.94, 60.39, 51.19, 49.93, 49.58, 46.87, 44.83, 42.62, 41.70, 39.36, 38.97, 27.70, 24.19, 22.63, 19.65, 18.39, 15.42, 14.65, 14.41, 13.94, 10.43. HRMS (ES): Calcd for C<sub>49</sub>H<sub>69</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>13</sub> (M+H): 949.4917, found: 949.4902.
  - Spectroscopic data for compound **18**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.59 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (tt, *J* = 7.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.39 (m, 3H), 4.27 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78–3.63 (m, 4H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.19–3.05 (m, 2H), 2.60–2.50 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 6H), 2.05–1.52 (m, 10H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.36 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  216.2, 203.8, 169.9, 166.5, 157.5, 150.7, 149.6, 148.6, 137.0, 133.6, 129.9, 129.8, 128.7, 122.9, 122.2, 120.4, 104.2, 82.4, 79.8, 78.2, 77.4, 71.8, 70.5, 66.5, 65.9, 60.6, 51.4, 50.2, 49.7, 47.5, 45.1, 42.8, 40.4, 39.6, 39.2, 27.9, 24.4, 23.1, 22.4, 20.0, 18.6, 15.8, 14.8, 14.5, 14.1, 10.7. MS: Calcd for C<sub>49</sub>H<sub>69</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>12</sub> (M+H): 933.5, found: 933.4.
  - Spectroscopic data for compound **19**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.57 (ddd, *J* = 4.8, 1.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.16 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.81–3.53 (m, 3H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 3.31–3.23 (m, 1H), 3.16–3.02 (m, 2H), 2.95–2.90 (m, 1H), 2.78 (s, 1H, –OH), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.63–2.56 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 6H), 2.10–1.50 (m, 10H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.35 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.29 (d,

$J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.27 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.16 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.86 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  215.6, 203.7, 169.7, 157.3, 150.1, 149.3, 148.3, 136.8, 122.7, 122.0,

120.2, 103.9, 82.2, 79.7, 78.2, 76.7, 70.3, 69.6, 65.9, 60.4, 51.2, 50.0, 49.9, 47.6, 44.9, 42.7, 40.2, 39.6, 39.0, 28.2, 27.7, 24.2, 22.2, 21.2, 19.8, 18.4, 15.8, 14.7, 14.4, 13.9, 10.5. MS: Calcd for  $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{65}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{10}$  (M+H): 813.48, found: 813.48.