

FRAGMENTATION PATTERN OF PERMETHYL 6-C-GLYCOSYLFLAVONES IN ELECTRON IMPACT MASS SPECTROMETRY

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Abstract—A mass spectral fragmentation pattern of permethyl 6-C-glycosylflavones is proposed from the MS data of permethyl derivatives mono-*O*-deuteriomethylated in the 2'', 3'', 4''- or 6''-positions. The synthesis of these compounds via *O*''-glycosyl-6-C-glycosylflavones is described.

INTRODUCTION

In previous work [1] we have shown that all permethylated *C*-glycosylflavones give well-defined mass spectra including, in all cases, an important molecular peak. The observed fragmentations are characteristic of the nature and position of the sugar and 6-*C*- and 8-*C*-glycosylated derivatives are clearly differentiated. In unsymmetrical (6-*C*-gly ≠ 8-*C*-gly) 6,8-di-*C*-glycosylflavones the nature of the sugar in both the 6- and 8-positions can be determined.

In a further study [2] we extended this method to the structural determination of *O*-glycosyl *C*-glycosylflavones, which frequently occur naturally in plants. Permethyl 6-*C*-glycosylflavones *O*-glycosylated on a phenolic hydroxyl group were easily distinguished from the isomeric 6-*C*-diglycosylflavones (*O*-glycosylated on a sugar hydroxyl) and in both types the position of the *O*-glycosidic bond can be deduced. This work required the synthesis of 6-*C*-diglycosylflavones (1-4) as reference compounds in which the *O*-glycosyl sugar was bound in turn to each hydroxyl group of the *C*-glucosyl unit. After permethylation, the removal of the *O*-glycosyl moiety by acid hydrolysis led to permethyl derivatives (8-11) with only one free hydroxyl group in the 2'', 3'', 4''- or 6''-positions. All these compounds can be differentiated by their MS [3]. Deuteriomethylation of this free hydroxyl group led to the corresponding mono-*O*-deuteriomethyl permethyl compounds (12-15), which, with some other derivatives: [permethyl-6-*C*-glucosylapigenin (7), 5,7,4'-tri-*O*-methyl-2'',3'',4'',6''-tetra-*O*-deuteriomethyl 6-*C*-glucosylapigenin (16), perdeuteriomethyl swertisin (7-*O*-methyl-6-*C*-glucosylapigenin) (17), perdeuteriomethyl 6-*C*-glucosylapigenin (18) and the permethyl derivative of the 3''-*O*-benzyl-6-*C*-glucosyl acetin (5)], provided an explanation for the characteristic differences in MS fragmentation of each permethyl *O*-substituted 6-*C*-glycosylflavone. In the present work, we are able to confirm the rules established earlier, in a rather empirical fashion [1-3].

Table 1. *C*-glycosylflavones studied

	R ₅	R ₇	R _{4''}	R _{2''}	R _{3''}	R _{4''}	R _{6''}
1	H	H	Me	Rha	H	H	H
2	H	H	Me	H	Rha	H	H
3	H	H	Me	H	H	Glc	H
4	H	H	Me	H	H	H	Rha
5	H	H	Me	H	Bz	H	H
6	H	H	Me	H	H	H	Tr
7	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me
8	Me	Me	Me	H	Me	Me	Me
9	Me	Me	Me	Me	H	Me	Me
10	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	H	Me
11	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	H
12	Me	Me	Me	CD ₃	Me	Me	Me
13	Me	Me	Me	Me	CD ₃	Me	Me
14	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	CD ₃	Me
15	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	Me	CD ₃
16	Me	Me	Me	CD ₃	CD ₃	CD ₃	CD ₃
17	CD ₃	Me	CD ₃				
18	CD ₃	CD ₃	CD ₃	CD ₃	CD ₃	CD ₃	CD ₃

Rha = rhamnosyl, Glc = glucosyl, Me = methyl, Bz = benzyl, Tr = trityl.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the MS data noted in Table 2 we deduced the tentative fragmentation pattern shown in Scheme 1. MS fragmentation of permethyl 6-*C*-glycosylflavones occurs with gradual removal of the different carbon

Table 2. MS (%) data of permethyl and deuteriomethyl 6-C-glycosylflavones. Main peaks $\geq 5\%$

Peak		Compound								
		7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	PM 5
M ⁺	<i>m/e</i>	530	533	533	533	533	542	548	551	60
	%	30	56	27	36	27	30	27	13	37
a	M-15	20	3	22	22	22	—	—	—	25
	M-18	—	22	—	—	—	20	13	14	—
	M-91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
b	M-31	78	30	67	69	77	—	—	—	100
	M-34	—	73	17	—	—	71	48	40	—
	M-107	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
c	M-47	12	18	—	12	12	—	—	—	—
	M-50	—	—	13	—	—	13	—	—	—
	M-52	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	—
d	M-123	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
	M-63	3	3	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
	M-66	—	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
e	M-69	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—
	M-70	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
	M-139	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
f	M-103	15	15	14	—	—	—	—	—	15
	M-106	—	—	—	15	13	—	—	—	—
	M-109	—	—	—	—	—	15	9	9	—
g	M-179	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M-133	7	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	7
	M-136	—	6	—	8	7	—	—	—	—
h	M-142	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	6	—
	M-209	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M-161	12	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
i	M-164	—	—	16	14	14	—	—	—	—
	M-170	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	10	—
	M-237	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
j	M-163	15	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M-166	—	—	16	16	16	—	—	—	—
	M-172	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—
k	M-173	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	9	—
	M-239	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
	M-175	100	14	100	16	—	—	—	—	91
l	M-178	—	100	8	100	100	—	—	—	—
	M-184	—	—	—	—	—	100	100	100	—
	M-251	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
m	M-189	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M-192	—	17	19	21	19	—	—	—	—
	M-201	—	—	—	—	—	14	12	18	—
n	M-265	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57
	M-191	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M-194	—	8	12	11	11	—	—	—	—
o	M-203	—	—	—	—	—	8	5	6	—
	M-267	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
	M-205	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
p	M-208	—	13	16	13	15	—	—	—	—
	M-217	—	—	—	—	—	12	5	9	—
	M-281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47
q	M-207	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M-210	—	9	13	11	11	—	—	—	—
	M-218	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	7	—
r	M-219	—	—	—	—	—	12	4	9	—
	M-283	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
	M-219	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
s	M-222	—	10	16	12	13	—	—	—	—
	M-231	—	—	—	—	—	12	5	4	—
	M-295	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36

(M-47 from **12**, **14** and **15**; M-50 from **13** and **16** and M-52 from **17** and **18**) comes from the loss of the methoxyl group in the 3"-position, a CH₂ group from the 5-OMe and two H atoms from an unknown origin.

4"- and 6"-substituents

As shown by the MS of **14** and **15**, no outstanding characteristics allow one to differentiate between the 4"- and 6"-methoxyl or deuteriomethoxyl groups. Both remain in the ions **a**, **b**, **c** and **d**, and both are lost in other ions. However the participation (16%) of the 4"-substituent to the ion **i** could explain the differences in the relative intensities of peaks **i** and **j** which distinguish the isomeric 4"- and 6"-monohydroxyl compounds **10** and **11** (see ref. [3]).

Aglycone substituents (ring A)

The MS of **16** and **17**, the phenolic substituent in the 5-position must be involved in the above-mentioned ions **c** and **d** and also in ion **h**, whereas the 7-methoxyl was unchanged (cf. MS of **17** and **18**). This difference in behaviour is consistent with their respective positions on the flavone nucleus and can be correlated with the great differences between the MS fragmentation of permethyl 6- and 8-C-glycosylflavones. The latter have been shown (1) to give simpler spectra in which, from the molecular ion, the sugar is almost completely lost to produce the base peak **i**: Ar—CH=O⁺Me followed by the ion series **j**: Ar—CH=OH⁺, **k**: Ar—CH₂⁺ until the aglycone ion **l**: Ar⁺.

Aglycone substituents (ring B)

In previous work [1], it was shown that ring B had no influence on the MS fragmentation but only on the relative intensities of the peaks. This is true if ring B substituents are methoxyl groups, but not when they are permethyl glycosyl groups (cf. [2], MS fragmentation pattern of the permethyl derivatives of 3'- and 4'-O-glycosyl 6-C-glycosyl-luteolin).

Synthesis of deuteriomethyl compounds

Access to mono-O-deuteriomethyl permethyl 6-C-glycosylflavones was made possible by the synthesis of some 6-C-diglycosylflavones. Permethylation and acid hydrolysis of the latter lead to mono-hydroxy permethyl derivatives, which can be deuteriomethylated. Thus mono-O-deuteriomethylpermethyl 6-C-glycosylapigenins **12**–**15** were obtained by respective treatment of the hexa-O-methyl 6-C-glycosylapigenins **8**–**11** with CD₃I in DMF–NaH mixture. 5,7,4',3'',4'',6''-Hexa-O-methyl-6-C-glycosylapigenin (**8**) was obtained by acid hydrolysis of the permethyl derivative of 6-C-neohesperidosylacetin (isomargariten) (**1**), the synthesis of which was previously described [5]. 5,7,4',2'',4'',6''-Hexa-O-methyl-6-C-glycosylapigenin (**9**) was obtained by acid hydrolysis of the permethyl derivative of synthetic 6-C-rungiosylacetin (**2**) or by hydrogenolysis of permethyl 3''-O-benzyl-6-C-glycosylacetin (**5**). 5,7,4',2'',3'',6''-Hexa-O-methyl-6-C-glycosylapigenin (**10**) is the acid-hydrolysis product of permethyl 6-C-cellobiosylacetin (**3**) and 5,7,4',2'',3'',4''-hexa-O-methyl-6-C-glycosylapigenin (**11**) the hydrolysis product of both permethyl 6-C-

rutinosylacetin (**4**) and permethyl 6''-O-trityl-6-C-glycosylacetin (**6**).

All 6-C-diglycosylflavones were synthesized using the same method as for **1** [5] by condensing acetin (5,7-dihydroxy-4'-methoxyflavone) in methanolic alkaline medium (LiOMe) with the suitable O-acetylglucosyl halide: α-bromo-hepta-O-acetylneohesperidose for **1**, α-bromo-hepta-O-acetylrungiose for **2**, α-bromo-octa-O-acetylcellobiose for **3** and α-bromo-hepta-O-acetyl-rutinosyl for **4**. The same condensation method was used to synthesize **5**, the sugar halide being α-bromo-3-O-benzyl-2,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-D-glucopyranose.

EXPERIMENTAL

MS were recorded on an AEI MS 902 spectrograph to 70 eV. Temps (sample and source in the same order) varied between 150 and 190°.

Chromatography—free compounds. PC or cellulose TLC in 5% HOAc (1); 15% HOAc (2); *n*-BuOH–HOAc–H₂O (BAW), 4:1:5 (3); *n*-BuOH–27% HOAc, 1:1 (4); and Si gel TLC in EtOAc–Py–H₂O–MeOH (APEM), 80:12:10:5 (5). Permethyl (PM) and deuteriomethyl compounds: Si gel TLC in CHCl₃–EtOAc–Me₂CO, 5:4:1 (6) or 5:1:4 (7). C-Glycosyl apigenins or acetins were violet-black in UV light and yellow with alkali; 6-C-glycosyl compounds gave red and 8-C-glycosyl compounds brown spots with diazotized benzidine. PM 6-C-glycosyl apigenins had a deep blue and PM 8-C-glycosyl isomers a light blue fluorescence.

Permethylation or deuteriomethylation. Less than 1 mg of substance in DMF (2 ml) was added, under dry N₂, to NaH (~100 mg), previously washed with hexane and then MeI or CD₃I (0.5 ml) was added. After 1 hr the mixture was cautiously diluted with H₂O and extracted with CHCl₃. After washing (5 or 6×) with H₂O, CHCl₃ was evapd and the derivative purified by TLC on Si gel in solvent (6) or (7). Deuteriomethylation of **8**, **9**, **10** and **11** led to **12**, **13**, **14** and **15**. To synthesize **16**, 6-C-glycosylacetin was first methylated with CH₂N₂ in MeOH and, after purification, 5,7,4'-tri-O-methyl-6-C-glycosylapigenin was perdeuteriomethylated. **17** is the PM derivative of 7-O-methyl-6-C-glycosylapigenin (natural swertisin) and **18** is the perdeuteriomethyl (PDM) derivative of 6-C-glycosylapigenin (isovitexin). Chromatography in solvent (6): **12** 0.31, **13** 0.32, **14** 0.32, **15** 0.32, **17** 0.31, **18** 0.31, **7** 0.33.

Acid hydrolysis. A few mg of the PM derivative of the 6-C-diglycosylflavone was heated in sealed tube in MeOH–4N HCl 1:1 (2 ml) at 100–110° for 2 hr. After cooling, the soln was diluted and extracted with CHCl₃. After washing until neutral, the extract was concd and chromatographed on Si gel in solvent (7). Hydrolysis products gave deep blue fluorescent spots that have lower R_fs than the starting compounds: **8** 0.42, **9** 0.40, **1** 0.43, **11** 0.48; in solvent (6) **10** 0.12.

3''-O-α-L-Rhamnopyranosyl-6-C-β-D-glucopyranosylacetin (**2**). Acetobromorungiose from HBr in HOAc treatment [6] of peracetylrungiose (1,2,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-3-O-(2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl)-D-glucopyranose) (**7**) (1.4 g) in Et₂O (10 ml) was added to a soln of acetin (67 mg) and LiOMe (Li 30 mg) in MeOH (10 ml) with shaking for 3 hr. The mixture was neutralized with 2 N-HCl and left overnight at room temp. The solvents were removed under vacuum and the residue extracted with H₂O (50 ml). Residual acetin was removed by filtration and extraction with Et₂O (4×20 ml), while glycosylacetins were extracted with *n*-BuOH (5×20 ml). The *n*-BuOH was evapd and the

glycoside mixture chromatographed on paper in solvent (1). 6-C-Rungiosylacetin R_f 0.73, Si gel TLC 0.45 (5), red with diazotized benzidine was eluted and permethylated. Permethyl derivative: Si gel TLC 0.33 (6), 0.89 (7), UV deep blue. MS m/e (%): 704 (M^+ , 46); 689 (7); 673 (33); 559 (12); 545 (23); 529 (16); 515 (25); 513 (28); 501 (21); 499 (74); 485 (23); 483 (42); 467 (60); 427 (9); 425 (28); 397 (11); 371 (11); 369 (42); 368 (28); 355 (69); 341 (100); 325 (63); 311 (39). From the permethylation mixture, traces of the PM derivative of the isomeric 8-C-rungiosylacetin were obtained. Si gel TLC 0.63 (7), UV light blue. MS m/e (%): 704 (M^+ , 22); 690 (6); 675 (4); 559 (6); 545 (34); 544 (29); 516 (26); 515 (75); 501 (16); 499 (12); 485 (8); 467 (11); 397 (11); 369 (13); 355 (19); 342 (22); 341 (100); 326 (15); 325 (14); 311 (27).

3'-O-Benzyl-6-C- β -D-glucopyranosylacetin (5). 2,4,6-Tri-O-acetyl-3-O-benzyl- α -D-glucopyranosyl bromide (8) (6g) in Et₂O (50 ml) was condensed with acacetin (380 mg) in MeOH-LiOMe (40 ml) (250 mg Li) in the usual way. Residual acacetin was extracted with Et₂O, and O-benzyl glucosides with EtOAc. 3'-O-Benzyl 6-C-glycosylacetin, red with diazotized benzidine, was separated from the O-glucosides by TLC on polyamide powder in MeOH (R_f 0.63). Si gel TLC 0.82 (5).

Permethyl derivative. R_f 0.56 (6) (UV deep blue) MS reported in Table 2. In the permethylation mixture, traces of the permethyl derivative of the isomeric 3'-O-benzyl-8-C-glycosylacetin were obtained R_f 0.20 (UV light blue). MS m/e (%): 606 (M^+ , 52); 592 ($M-14$, 100); 577 (11); 564 (11); 551 (11); 550 (15); 549 (26); 521 (22); 520 (15); 507 (19); 506 (19); 491 (15); 477 (13); 450 (7); 449 (15); 432 (15); 431 (44); 421 (15); 403 (19); 395 (33); 393 (26); 369 (7); 367 (19); 365 (15); 355 (19); 351 (26); 341 (30); 340 (22); 339 (26); 327 (15); 325 (26); 323 (19); 311 (22). Hydrogenolysis of permethyl derivative: A stream of H₂ was passed through a mixture of a few mg of the PM derivative of 5 and Pd/C in Ac₂O for 24 hr. 9 was obtained. Its purification was achieved by TLC on Si gel in solvent (6).

4'-O- β -D-Glucopyranosyl-6-C- β -D-glucopyranosylacetin (3). Acetobromo-cellobiose (α -bromo-2,3,6-tri-O-acetyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl) β -D-glucopyranosyl)-D-glucopyranose (9) (18 g) and acacetin (0.8 g) were condensed in MeOH-MeOLi (80 ml) (300 mg Li) in the usual way. The mixture of glycoside was chromatographed on a Polyamide (MN SC 6) column (90 cm; 2 cm) eluted by MeOH-H₂O. Crystalline 6-C-cellobiosylacetin (63 mg) 3.7% was obtained from 20% MeOH, mp 245-247°; UV λ_{max}^{MeOH} nm: 270 (log ϵ 4.37), 305 sh, 326 (4.35); +NaOH, 277, 293 sh, 370; +NaOAc 278, 293 sh, 367; +NaOAc-H₃BO₃, 271, 318, 330 sh; +AlCl₃ 261 sh, 279, 296 sh, 302, 345, 380; +AlCl₃-HCl 260 sh, 279, 295 sh, 300, 338, 378. Chromatography: 0.34 (1), 0.45 (2), 0.45 (3), 0.62 (4), 0.30 (5). Permethyl

derivative: 0.73 (7) (deep blue); MS m/e (%): 734 (M^+ , 22); 719 (6); 703 (18); 499 (18); 467 (8); 427 (5); 425 (5); 371 (19); 369 (24); 367 (8); 355 (100); 341 (25); 325 (10); 311 (7).

6'-O- α -L-Rhamnopyranosyl-6-C- β -D-glucopyranosylacetin (4). Acetobromorutinosyl (α -bromo-2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-6-O-(2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl)-D-glucopyranose (10) (14 g) and acacetin (600 mg) were condensed in MeOH-MeOLi (70 ml) (Li 330 mg), and the glycoside mixture chromatographed as described for 3. Crystalline 6-C-rutinosylacetin (9 mg) (0.7%), mp 184-187°; UV λ_{max}^{MeOH} nm: 271 (log ϵ 4.19), 305 sh, 326 (4.20); +NaOH 278, 295 sh, 372; +NaOAc 277, 294 sh, 356; +NaOAc-H₃BO₃ 270, 326; +AlCl₃ 260 sh, 278, 295 sh, 302, 345, 380; +AlCl₃-HCl 260 sh, 278, 295 sh, 300, 338, 377. Chromatography: 0.54 (1), 0.66 (2), 0.55 (3), 0.67 (4), 0.39 (5). Permethyl derivative 0.78 (7) (UV deep blue); MS m/e (%): 704 (M^+ 19); 689 (10); 673 (22); 559 (15); 545 (12); 529 (8); 515 (13); 513 (23); 501 (10); 499 (14); 485 (21); 467 (8); 427 (13); 425 (5); 371 (19); 369 (24); 367 (8); 355 (100); 341 (26); 325 (15); 311 (13); Traces of free 8-C-rutinosylacetin were also observed when mother liquors of crystallization were chromatographed on Si gel TLC in solvent (5) R_f 0.50, brown with diazotized benzidine. Permethyl derivative: R_f 0.50 (7), UV light blue.

6'-O-Triyl-6-C-glycosylacetin (6). 6-C-Glycosylacetin (2 mg) and trityl chloride (18 mg) in Py (4 ml) were left at room temp. for 12 days. On dilution with H₂O, the product separated. After drying, the crude product is permethylated by the usual method; the trityl group was removed from the PM derivative using MeOH-2 N HCl (1:1) at room temp. for 12 hr, leading to 11.

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