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1,3-Dimethyluracil (**1**), a versatile synthon for the synthesis of various heterocycles, reacted readily with 3-aminopyrazoles **2** in sodium ethoxide to give pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines **3**. Under similar conditions, 3-aminopyrazole C-nucleosides **4** and the synthon **1** gave a mixture of pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine C-nucleosides, which was separated on a silica gel column. Attempts to remove the protecting groups yielded pyranose derivative **10**. Another synthon 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil and 3-aminopyrazoles **12** gave pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]triazines **13**. In a similar reaction with 3-aminopyrazole C-nucleosides **4** gave the corresponding pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]triazine C-nucleosides **14** and **15**.

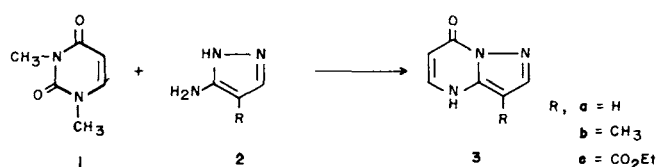
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Recently, 1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) and its derivatives have been found to be useful synthons for the synthesis of various heterocycles [1-7]. In an addition-elimination reaction **1** can transfer an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated keto-moiety to incoming nucleophiles. We have utilized this type of reaction in the synthesis of 2'-deoxypseudoisocytidine in which 1,3-dimethyl-2'-deoxypseudouridine was treated with a nucleophile, guanidine [1,2]. By the similar reaction Hirota *et al.* [3] also converted 1,3-dimethylpseudouridine to pseudoisocytidine, which is a potent antileukemic agent [8,9]. This method circumvented the difficulties encountered in the synthesis of pseudoisocytidine. Recently we have also converted 1,3-dimethylacyclopseudouridine into acyclopseudoisocytidine in a similar reaction [10].

In previous works, however, simple nucleophiles such as guanidine [1-3], urea [3], thiourea [3], acetamides [4] except 1,3-dimethyl-6-aminouracil [4], have been used. This report deals with the utilization of 3-aminopyrazoles and their C-nucleosides derivatives as nucleophiles in the synthesis of pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines **3**, pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]triazines **13**, and their corresponding C-nucleosides. 3-Aminopyrazole may be viewed as a heterocycle with an amidine moiety incorporated into the ring system. In order to test the feasibility of the reaction, various 4-substituted 3-aminopyrazoles **2** were treated with 1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) in sodium ethoxide solution (Scheme 1). 3-Substituted

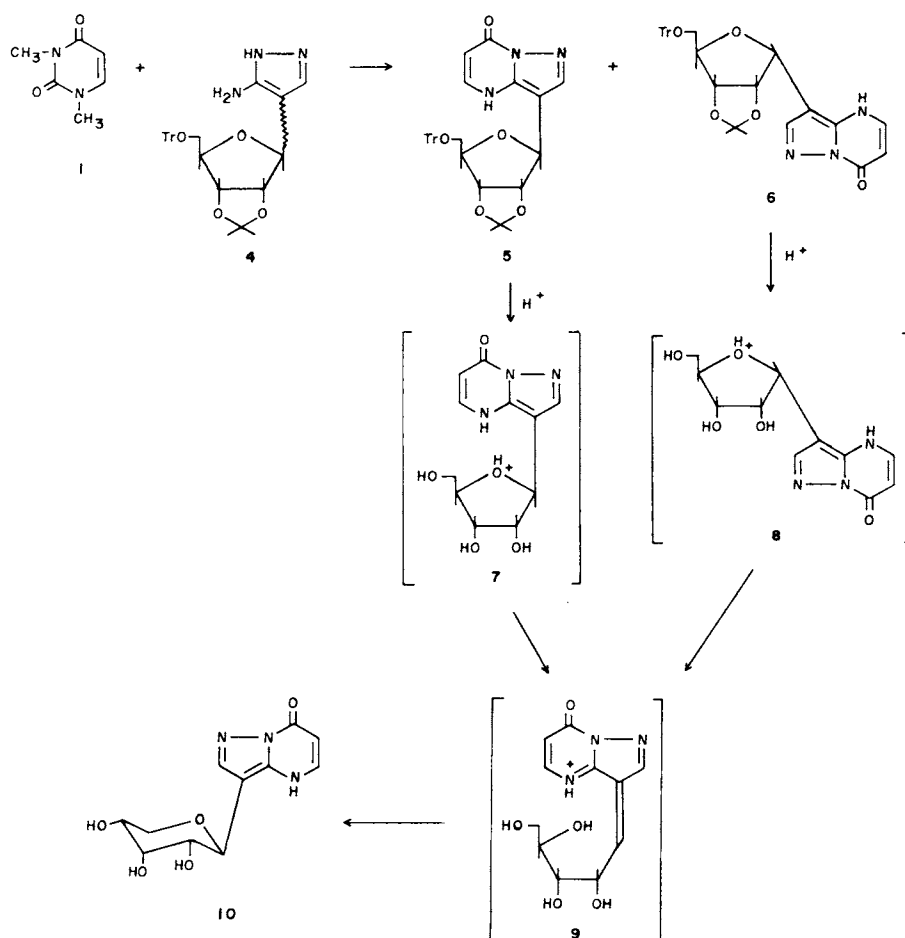
reaction provided easy access to pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine system [11,12]. Furthermore, the reaction has also been demonstrated to be useful in the synthesis of pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine C-nucleosides **5** and **6** (Scheme 2). Thus, from the reaction of 3-aminopyrazole C-nucleosides **4** (an anomeric mixture) and 1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**), an anomeric mixture of pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine C-nucleosides **5** and **6** was obtained after silica gel column chromatography. Even if a single isomer of 3-aminopyrazole C-nucleoside was used, a mixture of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -anomers **5** and **6** was obtained due to the anomerization during the reaction, which is consistent with our previous observation [13,14]. The assignment of anomeric configuration of **5** and **6** was mainly based on the chemical shifts of the anomeric protons in which H-1' of the  $\beta$ -anomer appeared at higher field ( $\delta$  4.95) than that of the  $\alpha$ -anomer ( $\delta$  5.26). It should be mentioned that the differences of chemical shifts between the methyl groups ( $\Delta\delta$ ) for the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -anomer were both 0.24 ppm. Thus, the Imbach rule [15] does not apply for the assignment of **5** and **6**, which is often the cases with other "purine-like" C-nucleosides with large aromatic substitutions at 5'-position [16]. In order to obtain free nucleosides **5** and **6** were separately treated with 10% methanolic hydrogen chloride at room temperature. According to nmr spectra both **5** and **6** gave the same product **10**, in which the coupling constant of H1' and H2' ( $J_{1',2'}$ ) was 9.9 Hz. This result could only be accommodated by pyranose-form with  $\beta$ -configuration [17]. Furthermore, compound **10** showed three exchangeable doublets for three hydroxyl groups in deuterated dimethyl sulfoxide at 270 MHz, which confirmed the above assignment. Previously, we observed similar results ( $J_{1',2'} = 9.7$  Hz) during the deblocking of 3-amino-2*N*-carbamoyl-4-( $\beta$ -D-ribofuranosyl)pyrazole to free nucleosides [14]. The above results indicate that initially formed ribo-nucleosides **7** and **8** underwent the ring-opening reaction to **9**, which was cyclized to give exclusively pyranose derivative **10**.

Scheme 1

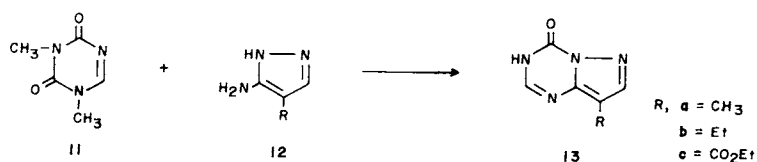


pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine derivatives **3** were readily obtained by filtration of the resulting sodium salts followed by the neutralization of the aqueous solution. This simple

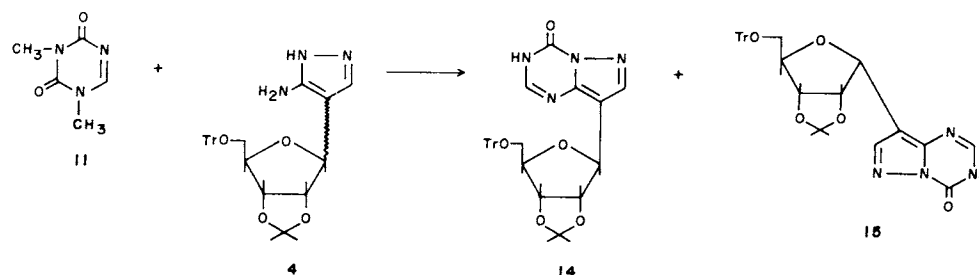
Scheme 2



Scheme 3



Scheme 4



The general utility of this reaction was also demonstrated in the synthesis of pyrazolo[1,5-a]triazines **13** and its *C*-nucleosides **14**, and **15** with another heterocyclic synthon, 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil (**11**).

Previously we utilized the synthon for the ring transformation reaction from *S*-triazine to pyrimidines [18]. Aminopyrazoles **12** were reacted with 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil (**11**) in sodium ethoxide to afford pyrazolo[1,5-a]tria-

zines (**13**) (Scheme 3). Upon treatment of **11** with **4**, an anomeric mixture (1:1) of pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]triazine C-nucleosides **14** and **15** was obtained in fair yield (Scheme 4). The deblocked compounds of **14** and **15** have been previously reported [20].

Thus, the foregoing reactions of aminopyrazoles with 1,3-dimethyluracil and 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil have demonstrated the utility in the synthesis of pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidines and pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]triazines. Furthermore, facile syntheses of hitherto unknown C-nucleosides **5**, **6**, and **10** have been achieved.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined on a Thomas-Hoover capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The <sup>1</sup>H nmr spectra were recorded on a JEOL FX90Q or FX270 fourier transform spectrometer. Tetramethylsilane was the internal standard for organic solvents and sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propane-1-sulfonate (DSS) was the internal standard for deuterium oxide; chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (δ), and signals are described as *s* (singlet), *d* (doublet), *t* (triplet), *q* (quartet), *b* (broad), *m* (multiplet). Ultraviolet spectra were recorded on a Bausch and Lomb Spectronic 2000 spectrometer. Thin-layer chromatography was performed on Uniplates purchased from Analtech Co. or Pre-coated tlc sheets (Silica gel 60) (F-254) by EM Laboratories, Inc. Elemental analysis was performed by Atlantic Microlab, Inc., Atlanta, GA.

### Pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-one (**3a**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) (760 mg, 5.4 mmoles) and 3-aminopyrazole (**2a**) (322 mg, 4.0 mmoles) in 5 ml of sodium ethoxide solution (1 mole) was heated at 90-95° for one hour and then cooled in an ice-water bath. The resulting precipitate (400 mg) was dissolved in water (10 ml) and neutralization with acetic acid gave creamy colored crystals **3a** (330 mg, 61%), mp 239-240° (330-331° reported) [11]; uv: λ max 228 and 269 (pH 1), 227 and 268 (pH 7), 234, 239 (sh) and 313 (sh) (pH 12); <sup>1</sup>H nmr (dimethylsulfoxide-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 5.80 (d, 1, H-3, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 2.0 Hz), 5.94 (d, 1, H-5, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 7.9 Hz), 7.75 (d, 1, H-2), 8.47 (d, 1, H-6).

### 3-Methylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-one (**3b**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) (700 mg, 5 mmoles) and 3-amino-4-methylpyrazole (**2b**) (600 mg, 5.3 mmoles) in 7 ml of sodium ethoxide solution (1 mole) was heated at 95-100° for 2 hours and then cooled in an ice-water bath. The resulting white precipitate (650 mg) was dissolved in water (15 ml) and neutralized with acetic acid. The resulting white precipitate was filtered to collect **3b** (390 mg, 52%), mp 252-253°; uv: λ max 237 and 272 (pH 1), 237 and 273 (pH 7), 242, 247 (sh) and 315 (sh) (pH 12); <sup>1</sup>H nmr (dimethylsulfoxide-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 3.32 (s, 3, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.84 (d, 1, H-5, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 7.9 Hz), 7.58 (s, 1, H-2), 8.36 (d, 1, H-6), 11.99 (b, 1, H-4, exchangeable).

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: C, 56.37; H, 4.70; N, 28.19. Found: C, 56.45; H, 4.74; N, 28.17.

### 3-Ethoxycarbonylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-one (**3c**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) (700 mg, 5 mmoles) and 3-amino-4-carboxypyrazole (**2c**) (780 mg, 5 mmoles) in 7 ml of sodium ethoxide solution (1 mole) was heated at 85-90° for one hour, and then cooled in an ice-water bath. The resulting precipitate was dissolved in water and neutralized with acetic acid. The resulting precipitate was filtered to collect **3c** (355 mg, 34%), mp 217-219°; <sup>1</sup>H nmr (dimethylsulfoxide-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 1.29 (t, 3, CH<sub>3</sub>, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.28 (q, 2, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.15 (d, 1, H-5, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 7.9 Hz), 8.13 (s, 1, H-2), 8.57 (d, 1, H-6).

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 52.17; H, 4.35; N, 20.29. Found: C, 52.11; H, 4.37; N, 20.26.

### 3-(β-D-2,3-O-Isopropylidene-5-O-tritylribofuranosyl-7-oxo-4H-pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine (**5**) and its α-Anomer (**6**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyluracil (1.12 g, 8 mmoles), 3-aminopyrazole C-nucleosides **4** (2.0 g, 4 mmoles, an α,β mixture), sodium ethoxide (20 ml, 1 mole) and absolute ethanol (10 ml) was heated at 90° for 15 hours. After cooling the mixture was neutralized with acetic acid, which was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated to a syrup. Chloroform (30 ml) was added, triturated, filtered and the filtrate was evaporated to a syrup, which indicated two major spots on a thin-layer plate (chloroform/methanol = 20/1, R<sub>f</sub> ≅ 0.5). The mixture was separated on a silica gel column (30 inch) using a mixture of chloroform/methanol (50/1) as an eluent to give a slow moving compound β-isomer **5** (775 mg); <sup>1</sup>H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.36 and 1.60 (s, 6, isopropylidene group), 3.25-3.40 (m, 2, H-5' and H-5''), 4.20-4.38 (m, 1, H-4'), 4.68 (dd, 2, H-2' and H-3'), 4.95 (m, 1, H-1', a long range coupling with H-3' was noted), 5.93 (d, 1, H-5, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 7.9 Hz), 7.20-7.47 (m, 15, trityl), 7.62 (s, 1, H-2), 8.05 (d, 1, H-6).

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> + Methanol [19]: C, 70.22; H, 6.02; N, 7.22. Found: C, 70.40; H, 5.84; N, 7.40.

A fast moving compound α-isomer **6** (530 mg) was also obtained from the same column; <sup>1</sup>H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.34 and 1.58 (s, 6, isopropylidene group), 3.22-3.38 (m, H-5' and H-5''), 4.20-4.34 (m, 1, H-4'), 4.75-4.91 (m, 2, H-2' and H-3'), 5.26 (d, 1, H-1', J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 2.4 Hz), 5.99 (d, 1, H-5, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 7.9 Hz), 7.26-7.45 (m, 15, trityl), 7.70 (s, 1, H-2), 8.05 (d, 1, H-6).

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> + Methanol [19]: C, 70.22; H, 6.02; N, 7.22. Found: C, 69.96; H, 5.83; N, 7.37.

### 3-(β-D-Ribopyranosyl)-7-oxo-4H-pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidine (**10**). Method A (from **5**).

A mixture of **5** (500 mg) and methanolic hydrogen chloride (5 ml, 10%) was stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature during which colorless crystals were precipitated (170 mg, 70%), mp 177-178°; uv: λ max 231 (11,770) and 268 (4,490) (pH 1), 231 (11,880) and 268 (4,460) (pH 7), 238 (17,840), 243 (sh) (11,770) and 317 (sh) (pH 12); <sup>1</sup>H nmr (dimethylsulfoxide-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 3.41-3.55 (m, 4, H-2', H-4', H-5' and H-5''), 3.90 (m, 1, H-3'), 4.46 (d, 1, H-1', J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 9.9 Hz exchangeable), 4.54 (d, 1, OH, J = 8.6 Hz), 4.66 (d, 1, OH, J = 6.6 Hz, exchangeable), 4.79 (d, 1, OH, J = 3.3 Hz, exchangeable), 5.89 (d, 1, H-5, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 7.9 Hz), 7.30 (s, 1, H-4, exchangeable), 7.68 (s, 1, H-2), 8.40 (d, 1, H-6), 11.80 (b, 1, NH, exchangeable).

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 49.44; H, 4.87; N, 15.73. Found: C, 49.34; H, 4.91; N, 15.69.

### Method B (from **6**).

A mixture of **6** (500 mg) and 5 ml of methanolic hydrogen chloride (10%) was stirred for 2 hours at room temperature during which colorless crystals were precipitated (155 mg, 64%). This product was spectroscopically same as the compound from Method A.

### 8-Methyl-4-oxo-3H-pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]1,3,5-triazine (**13a**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil (**11**) (846 mg, 6 mmoles), 3-amino-4-methylpyrazole (678 mg, 6 mmoles), 10 ml of sodium ethoxide solution (1 mole), and 5 ml of absolute ethanol was heated at 90-95° for 5 hours, and then cooled in an ice-water bath. The resulting precipitate was dissolved in water, neutralized with acetic acid, cooled in refrigerator, and then collected the resulting precipitate (0.58 g, 64%). This product was indistinguishable from an authentic sample [14].

### 8-Ethyl-4-oxo-3H-pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]1,3,5-triazine (**13b**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil (**11**) (700 mg, 5 mmoles) and aminopyrazole **12b** (1.0 g, 9 mmoles) in sodium ethoxide solution (1 mole, 10 ml) was heated 95-100° for 15 hours. The mixture was cooled,

neutralized with acetic acid, evaporated to dryness. After addition of water (10 ml), the solution was stored in a refrigerator for a few hours and then the resulting precipitate was collected and washed with a small amount of methanol. An analytical sample was obtained from recrystallization from water, mp 273-277° dec; uv:  $\lambda$  max 265 (pH 1), 269 (pH 7) and 272 (pH 12);  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  1.20 (t, 3,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 2.59 (q, 2,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.94 (s, 1, H-2), 7.99 (s, 1, H-7), 12.43 (b, 1, NH, exchangeable).

Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_8\text{N}_4\text{O}$ : C, 51.22; H, 4.88; N, 34.15. Found: C, 51.37; H, 4.92; N, 34.14.

#### 8-Carboxy-4-oxo-3H-pyrazolo[1,5-a]-1,5-triazine (**13c**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil (**11**) (1.41 g, 10 mmoles), aminopyrazole **13c** (1.55 g, 10 mmoles), sodium ethoxide solution (1 mole, 15 ml) and absolute ethanol (10 ml) was refluxed for 15 hours. After heating the solvent was evacuated to a syrup, which was dissolved in water (30 ml), neutralized with diluted hydrochloric acid. The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration and recrystallized from 95% ethanol to give 0.89 g (43%), mp 276-277°;  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  1.29 (t, 3,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $J = 7$  Hz), 4.28 (t, 2,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 8.25 (s, 1, H-7), 8.36 (s, 1, H-2), 13.10 (b, 1, NH, exchangeable).

Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ : C, 46.15; H, 3.85; N, 26.92. Found: C, 46.35; H, 3.79; N, 26.88.

#### 4-Oxo-3H-8-( $\alpha$ and $\beta$ -D-2,3-O-isopropylidene-5-O-tritylribofuranosyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]-1,3,5-triazine (**14** and **15**).

A mixture of 1,3-dimethyl-5-azauracil (700 mg, 5 mmoles) and aminopyrazole C-nucleosides **4** (1.5 g, 5 mmoles, anomeric mixture,  $\alpha/\beta = 55/45$ ) in 10 ml of sodium ethoxide (1 mole) was heated at 90° for 15 hours. The mixture was then cooled at room temperature, neutralized carefully with acetic acid, and then evaporated to a syrup, which was separated on a silica gel column using chloroform/methanol (20:1) as an eluent to obtain  $\alpha,\beta$ -mixture **14** and **15** (820 mg). These products were indistinguishable from an authentic sample [14].

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