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Synthesis of 6-Methylaminopurine by Thermal Cyclization of 4,6-Bis(methylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidine¹⁾

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The thermal cyclization of 4-amino-6-methylamino- (3) and 4,6-bis(methylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidines (4) to adenine (10) and its N^6 -methyl derivative is described. Compound 3 was synthesized by reaction of phenylazomalononitrile (2) with N-methylformamide and ammonia. Compound 4 was synthesized from 2, formamide, methylamine and its hydrochloride. These compounds were also obtained by methylation of 4,6-diamino-5-phenylazopyrimidines, followed by rearrangement in methanolic dimethylamine. Heating 4 at 250—260 °C afforded 6-methylaminopurine (12) together with a small amount of 8-anilino-6-methylaminopurine (13). Similarly, refluxing 3 in Dowtherm A yielded 10 and 8-anilinoadenine (11).

Keywords—phenylazomalononitrile; 4-alkylamino-6-amino-5-phenylazopyrimidine; 4,6-bis(alkylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidine; 4-amino-6-methylamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine; 4,6-bis(methylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidine; 6-methylaminopurine; 8-anilino-6-methylaminopurine; 8-anilinoadenine; thermal cyclization

9-(2-Chloro-6-fluorobenzyl)-6-methylaminopurine (1) (Chart 1) has been shown to have potent anticoccidial activity.²⁾ The available methods for the synthesis of 6-methylamino-

Chart 1

purine (12), the precursor of 1, however, are not simple and generally involve a number of steps.³⁾ Pfleiderer and Blank have reported that heating 5-(2,5-dichlorophenyl)azo-1,3-dimethyl-6-methylaminouracil in nitrobenzene resulted in an intramolecular cyclization to give theophylline.⁴⁾ Since then a similar approach to 8-dimethylaminotheophylline⁵⁾ and 2,8-diarylhypoxanthines⁶⁾ has been reported. We have now examined the thermal cyclization of 4-amino-6-methylamino- (3) and 4,6-bis(methylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidines (4) in the hope that a new route to adenine (10) and its derivatives might result. In this paper we describe the synthesis of 3 and 4 and their thermal behavior.

Synthesis of 4-Alkylamino-6-amino- and 4,6-Bis(alkylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidines

It has previously been reported that the direct condensation of phenylazomalononitrile (2), formamide and ammonia gives 4,6-diamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine (5) as the sole reaction product. We expected that by replacing the latter two reagents with N-alkylformamide and alkylamine, the desired N-alkylamino derivatives of 5 might be obtained.

Actually, heating a mixture of 2 (1 mol), formamide and methylamine (6 mol) at 150 °C for 5h in a sealed tube afforded 3 and 5 together with a small amount of 4. Addition of methylamine hydrochloride (1 mol) to this combination reduced the formation of 5 and yielded 3 (28%) as a major product (Method A) (Chart 2). Alternatively, 3 was prepared by

heating a mixture of 2, N-methylformamide and ammonia. The yield of 3 was improved by increasing the amount of ammonia and the use of 50 equivalents of ammonia gave the best result⁸⁾ (50%) (Method B). These methods could be applied to the synthesis of 4-amino-6-ethylamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine (6).

On the other hand, if the amount of methylamine was increased in Method A, it was found that 4 was obtained as a major product. Thus, 4 was obtained in 63% yield by using 50 equivalents of methylamine (Method C). This method was also applied to the synthesis of 4,6-bis(ethylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidine (7). The results are summarized in Tabel I.

The unsatisfactory yields of 3 and 4 by Methods A—C prompted us to consider an alternative approach to these compounds. According to the method for the synthesis of 4-amino-6-methylamino-5-nitropyrimidine, ¹⁰⁾ reaction of 5 with methyl iodide in N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) afforded 4-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-imino-1-methyl-5-phenylazo-pyrimidine hydriodide (8), which was converted to 3 by treatment with 50% methanolic dimethylamine. Similarly, 4 was prepared from 3 via 1,6-dihydro-6-imino-1-methyl-4-methylamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine hydriodide (9).

TABLE I. 4,6-Diamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine Derivatives

Compound No.	Method	Yield (%)	Appearance	mp (°C)	Formula	Analysis (%) Calcd (Found)		
				(Recrystallized from)		C	Н	N
3	A	28	Yellow needles	187—188 (CHCl ₃ -pet. ether)	$C_{11}H_{12}N_6$	57.88 (57.74	5.30 5.01	36.82 36.69)
	В	50				`		,
4	C	63	Orange needles	127—128 (CHCl ₃ -pet. ether)	$C_{12}H_{14}N_6$	59.49 (59.46		34.69 34.58)
6	Α	33	Yellow needles	129—130 (CHCl ₃ -pet. ether)	$C_{12}H_{14}N_6$	59.49 (59.59	5.82 5.97	34.69 34.83)
	В	64		(3 1 /		`		,
7	С	40	Orange needles	77—78 (Pet. ether)	C ₁₄ H ₁₈ N ₆	62.20 (61.95	6.71 6.74	31.09 31.01)

Compound No.		UV			1.60	
	¹ H-NMR ^{a)}	$\lambda_{\max}^{0.1 \text{ NHCl}}$ $nm (\varepsilon)$	$\lambda_{\max}^{H_2O}$ nm (ε)	λ ^{0.1} NNaOH max nm (ε)	– MS <i>m/z</i>	
3	3.14 (3H, d, J =4.5 Hz, CH ₃), 6.17—7.10 (2H, br, NH ₂), 7.27—7.83 (5H, m, Ar-H), 8.16 (1H, s, 2-H), 8.70—9.08 (1H, br, NH)	245 (19900), 386 (17100)	248 (18900), 388 (17700)	248 (18900), 388 (17700)		
4	3.13 (6H, d, $J = 5$ Hz, $2 \times CH_3$), 7.22—7.77 (5H, m, Ar-H), 8.07—8.73 (2H, br, $2 \times NH$), 8.24 (1H, s, 2-H)	257 (21500), 390 (16200)			242 (M ⁺), 213, 184, 150, 137	
6	1.29 (3H, t, $J=7$ Hz, CH ₃), 3.47—3.82 (2H, m, CH ₂), 6.50—7.36 (2H, br, NH ₂), 7.30—7.80 (5H, m, Ar-H), 8.12 (1H, s, 2-H), 8.75—9.20 (1H, br, NH)	248 (19000), 375 (16600)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	249 (18500), 390 (17200)	242 (M ⁺), 227, 213, 150	
7	1.29 (6H, t, $J=7$ Hz, $2 \times CH_3$), 3.47—3.83 (4H, m, $2 \times CH_2$), 7.30—7.75 (5H, m,	257 (21800)	218 (20100), 254 (19700)	254 (19700)	270 (M ⁺), 241, 178	

TABLE II. Spectral Data for 4,6-Diamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine Derivatives

 $(2H, br, 2 \times NH)$

¹H-Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and ultraviolet (UV) spectra and mass spectra (MS) of compounds prepared are listed in Table II.

Thermal Cyclization of 3 and 4 to Adenine Derivatives

Ar-H), 8.19 (1H, s, 2-H), 8.23-8.80

Refluxing 3 in Dowtherm A followed by purification by column chromatography on silica gel gave 10 (14%) and 8-anilinoadenine (11) (3%). The structure assignment of 11 was based on a comparison of spectral data with those of an authentic sample prepared by an unambiguous synthesis from 8-bromoadenine (14).¹¹⁾

Heating 4 at 250—260 °C afforded 12 as a major product together with several minor products. Thus, the reaction mixture was separated by column chromatography on silica gel and after removal of acetone-soluble materials from the eluate, the residue was recrystallized from water to afford 12 in 21% yield. The structure assignment of 12 was based on elemental analysis and spectral data. On the other hand, the reaction mixture in a separate experiment was extracted with acetone. After removal of the acetone, the residue insoluble in hot water was recrystallized from methanol to give yellow needles (3%). The structure of this product was supposed to be 8-anilino-6-methylaminopurine (13) on the basis of elemental analysis and spectral data. The structure was confirmed by an independent synthesis from 12. Bromination of 12 gave 8-bromo-6-methylaminopurine (15) whose structure was determined by conversion to known 8-hydroxy-6-methylaminopurine (16). Treatment of 15 with aniline gave 13. A possible mechanistic rationalization of the formation of 10—13 is illustrated in Chart 3. (13)

Experimental

Melting points were determined with a Yanagimoto micro melting point apparatus, except for those above 300 °C, which were determined in capillary tubes using a conc. H₂SO₄-K₂SO₄ (3:2) bath, and are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded with a Hitachi 260—10 spectrophotometer, UV spectra with a Perkin-Elmer 450 spectrophotometer, and MS with a JEOL JMS-01SC mass spectrometer. ¹H-NMR spectra were taken with a Varian EM-390 spectrometer (90 MHz) and chemical shifts are expressed in ppm (δ) using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an

a) Measured in CDCl₃.

internal standard. When D_2O was used as a solvent, TMS was used as an external standard. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Kieselgel 60 F_{254} plates (Merck) using CHCl₃-MeOH-28% NH₄OH (75:15:1) as the developing solvent. Column chromatography was carried out on Kieselgel 60 (Merck). Concentration operations were carried out under reduced pressure with a rotary evaporator.

Chart 3

4-Amino-6-methylamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine (3)—i) (Method A) A mixture of 2^{7} (8.51 g, 50 mmol), CH₃NH₂ (9.3 g, 300 mmol), CH₃NH₂·HCl (3.38 g, 50 mmol) and HCONH₂ (45 g, 1 mol) was stirred at 150 °C for 5 h in a sealed stainless steel tube. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ (200 ml). The CHCl₃ solution was washed with H₂O (150 ml), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (100 g) with CHCl₃ and CHCl₃–MeOH (49:1) as eluents. The eluate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized to give 3 (3.23 g).

ii) (Method B) A mixture of 2 (8.51 g, 50 mmol), HCONHCH₃ (59 g, 1 mol) and NH₃ (42.6 g, 2.5 mol) was treated in the manner described in i). The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (100 g) to give two fractions. The former fraction was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized to give 4 (340 mg, 3%), mp 125—127 °C. The latter fraction was treated similarly to give 3 (5.67 g).

iii) (By rearrangement) A mixture of 8 (178 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 50% (CH₃)₂NH-MeOH (5 ml) was stirred for 12 h at room temperature in a sealed stainless steel tube. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was diluted with water. The precipitate was collected, dried and recrystallized to give 3 (102 mg, 89%).

4,6-Bis(methylamino)-5-phenylazopyrimidine (4)—i) (Method C) A mixture of **2** (4.26 g, 25 mmol), CH_3NH_2 (38.8 g, 1.25 mol), $CH_2NH_2 \cdot HCl$ (3.38 g, 50 mmol) and $HCONH_2$ (23 g, 500 mmol) was treated in the manner described for **3**. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (75 g) with $CHCl_3$ as the eluent. The eluate was

evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized to give 4 (3.8 g).

ii) (By rearrangement) A mixture of 9 (1.85 g, 5 mmol) and 50% (CH₃)₂NH-MeOH (25 ml) was treated for 24 h in the manner described for 3. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ (100 ml). The CHCl₃ solution was washed with H₂O (2 × 100 ml), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was recrystallized to give 4 (1.13 g, 94%).

4-Amino-1,6-dihydro-6-imino-1-methyl-5-phenylazopyrimidine Hydriodide (8)—Methyl iodide (14 ml, 225 mmol) was added to a suspension of 5 (10.7 g, 50 mmol) in DMF (250 ml). The mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature, allowed to stand overnight at room temperature and concentrated. The residue was recrystallized from EtOH to give **8** (6.8 g, 38%), mp 269—271 °C (dec.). *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{11}H_{12}N_6 \cdot HI \cdot 1/2H_2O$: C, 36.18; H, 3.86; N, 23.01. Found: C, 36.35; H, 4.08; N, 23.20.

1,6-Dihydro-6-imino-1-methyl-4-methylamino-5-phenylazopyrimidine Hydriodide (9)—A suspension of 3 (6.85 g, 30 mmol) in DMF (30 ml) was treated with methyl iodide (8.4 ml, 135 mmol) in the manner described for 8. The crude product was recrystallized from MeOH to give 9 (5.74 g, 52%), mp 252—254 °C (dec.). Anal. Calcd for $C_{12}H_{14}N_6 \cdot HI$: C, 38.93; H, 4.08; N, 22.70. Found: C, 38.84; H, 4.19; N, 22.52.

Adenine (10) and 8-Anilinoadenine (11)—A suspension of 3 (10 g, 43.8 mmol) in Dowtherm A (a mixture containing 73.5% diphenyl ether and 26.5% diphenyl) (20 ml) was refluxed for 2 h with stirring, then cooled. After dilution with ether (300 ml), the precipitate (8.2 g) was collected and dissolved in hot MeOH–H₂O (1:1) (200 ml). The resulting solution was chromatographed on silica gel (1.5 kg) with acetone–H₂O (49:1) as the eluent to give two fractions. The former fraction was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized from MeOH (5 ml) to give 11 (277 mg, 3%) as light brown crystals, mp 172—175 °C. Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₀N₆·1/2H₂O: C, 56.16; H, 4.71; N, 35.72. Found: C, 56.02; H, 4.43; N, 35.50. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆): 6.47 (2H, s, NH₂), 6.81—7.05 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.31 (2H, t, J=8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.58—7.83 (2H, m, Ar-H), 8.04 (1H, s, 2-H), 9.03—10.00 (1H, br, NH). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm⁻¹: 1615, 1595, 1575, 1525, 1490, 1425, 1370, 1330, 1235. UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{0.1 \, \text{NHCl}}$ nm (ε): 300 (19500); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{H₂O}}$ nm (ε): 292 (24200); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{Cl}}$ nm (ε): 300 (27800). MS m/z: 226 (M⁺), 208, 199, 119, 77. The latter fraction was evaporated to dryness and the residue (3.3 g) was dissolved in CHCl₃–MeOH (1:1) (50 ml) with heating. The resulting solution was chromatographed on silica gel (800 g) with CHCl₃–MeOH (19:1) as the eluent. The eluate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized from H₂O (60 ml) to give 10 (828 mg, 14%) as colorless crystals, mp > 320 °C. Anal. Calcd for C₅H₅N₅: C, 44.44; H, 3.73; N, 51.83. Found: C, 44.40; H, 3.62; N, 51.52. ¹H-NMR (4% NaOD–D₂O): 8.12 (1H, s, 8-H), 8.23 (1H, s, 2-H). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{RBr}}$ cm⁻¹: 1670, 1600, 1450, 1420, 1370, 1335, 1310, 1250. UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{0.1 \, \text{NHCl}}$ nm (ε): 261 (13900); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{RBr}}$ nm (ε): 259 (14200); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{0.1 \, \text{NNOH}}$ nm (ε): 267 (13200).

8-Anilinoadenine (11)——A mixture of 14 (10.7 g, 50 mmol) and aniline (23.4 g, 250 mmol) was stirred at 180—190 °C for 3 h and cooled. The reaction mixture was solidified by addition of ether (100 ml) and the solid was collected. This was dissolved in 10% NH₄OH (1.5 l) and the solution was stirred at 70 °C for 30 min. Insoluble materials were filtered off and washed with H₂O. The filtrate and the washings were combined and concentrated to ca. 700 ml. The concentrate was adjusted with conc. HCl to pH 7 and cooled in an ice bath. The precipitate was collected and recrystallized from H₂O (3 l), then twice from MeOH to give yellowish crystals (containing a small amount of impurities by TLC) (3.8 g), which were dissolved in CHCl₃–MeOH (1:1) (200 ml). The resulting solution was chromatographed on silica gel (300 g) with CHCl₃–MeOH (9:1) and CHCl₃–MeOH (5:1) as eluents. The eluate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized from MeOH to give 11 (1.22 g, 10%) as colorless crystals, mp 172—175 °C.

6-Methylaminopurine (12)—Compound **4** (18 g, 74.3 mmol) was heated at 250—260 °C for 10 min in a metal bath, then cooled. The reaction mixture was dissolved in MeOH–H₂O (1:1) (60 ml) and the resulting solution was chromatographed on silica gel (950 g) with acetone–H₂O (49:1) as the eluent to give two fractions. The former fraction was evaporated to dryness and the residue was dissolved in hot MeOH (200 ml). After treatment with activated charcoal followed by concentration, the residue was refluxed for 30 min in acetone (50 ml) and cooled. The precipitate was collected and recrystallized from H₂O (50 ml) to give **12** (1.04 g, 9%) as colorless crystals, mp 314—316 °C (lit.^{3a)} mp 312—314 °C, lit.^{3b)} mp 306 °C, lit.^{3c)} mp 308 °C, lit.^{3d)} mp 319—320 °C). Anal. Calcd for C₆H₇N₅: C, 48.32; H, 4.73; N, 46.95. Found: C, 48.02; H, 4.43; N, 47.16. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆): 3.01 (3H, d, J=4 Hz, CH₃), 7.26—7.66 (1H, br, NH), 8.07 (1H, s, 8-H), 8.22 (1H, s, 2-H), 12.30—13.40 (1H, br, NH). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm⁻¹: 1620, 1595, 1485, 1450, 1440, 1390, 1355, 1330, 1300, 1245. UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{0.1 \text{ NHCl}}$ nm (ε): 266 (15800); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{H2O}}$ nm (ε): 266 (16400); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{0.1 \text{ NNaOH}}$ nm (ε): 272 (16300). MS¹⁵⁾ m/z (%): 149 (M⁺, 100), 121 (43), 120 (52), 93 (72), 66 (38). The latter fraction, which contained impurities, was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (800 g) to give an additional 1.25 g (11%) of **12** as colorless crystals, mp 314—316 °C.

8-Anilino-6-methylaminopurine (13)—i) Compound 4 (18 g, 74.3 mmol) was heated in the manner described for 12 and cooled. After addition of acetone (50 ml), the reaction mixture was stirred and allowed to stand overnight at room temperature. The crystals were collected and dissolved in hot water (500 ml). Insoluble materials were collected and dissolved in hot MeOH (200 ml). The MeOH solution was treated with activated charcoal and concentrated. The residue was washed with acetone (20 ml) and recrystallized from MeOH (50 ml) to give 13 (454 mg, 3%) as pale yellow crystals, mp 301—303 °C. Anal. Calcd for $C_{12}H_{12}N_6$: C, 59.99; H, 5.03; N, 34.98. Found: C, 59.53; H, 4.90; N, 35.11.

¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6): 3.00 (3H, d, J = 4.5 Hz, CH₃), 6.73—7.07 (2H, m, Ar-H and NH), 7.32 (2H, t, J = 8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.65—7.85 (2H, m, Ar-H), 8.11 (1H, s, 2-H), 9.10—9.67 (1H, br, NH). IR $v_{\rm max}^{\rm KBr}$ cm⁻¹: 3430, 1620, 1590, 1570, 1495, 1485, 1400, 1350, 1320, 1305, 1290, 1240, 1200. UV $\lambda_{\rm max}^{0.1~\rm NHCl}$ nm (ε): 238 (13700), 307 (20300); $\lambda_{\rm max}^{\rm H2O}$ nm (ε): 223 (17500), 241 (reflection) (13400), 295 (24000); $\lambda_{\rm max}^{0.1~\rm NAOH}$ nm (ε): 305 (25800). MS m/z: 240 (M⁺), 212, 184, 118, 77.

ii) A mixture of 15 (5.7 g, 25 mmol) and aniline (20 ml, 219 mmol) was stirred at 180—190 °C for 3 h. Aniline was removed and the residue was dissolved in MeOH (150 ml). After treatment with activated charcoal, the filtrate was diluted with an equal volume of ether and cooled in an ice bath. The deposited crystals were collected and recrystallized from EtOH (50 ml) to give light brown crystals (containing a small amount of impurities by TLC), which were dissolved in CHCl₃–MeOH (5:1). The resulting solution was chromatographed on silica gel (200 g) with CHCl₃ and CHCl₃–MeOH (19:1) as eluents. The eluate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized from EtOH (50 ml) to give 13 (1.35 g, 24%) as colorless crystals, mp 300—302 °C.

8-Bromo-6-methylaminopurine (15)—Bromine (25 ml, 480 mmol) was added to **12** (7.45 g, 50 mmol) and the mixture was allowed to stand for 4 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated at 100—110 °C for 5 h, then dissolved in 10% NH₄OH (700 ml). Insoluble materials were filtered off and the filtrate was adjusted with AcOH to pH 5. The precipitate was collected, washed with H₂O and suspended in H₂O (1.5 l). The suspension was stirred at 90 °C for 30 min and the precipitate was collected while hot. The precipitate was washed with H₂O and dissolved in 10% NH₄OH (700 ml). Insoluble materials were filtered off and the filtrate was adjusted with AcOH to pH 5. The precipitate was collected, washed with H₂O and recrystallized twice from DMF to give **15** (3.06 g, 27%) as light brown crystals, mp > 320 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for C₆H₆BrN₅: C, 31.60; H, 2.65; N, 30.71. Found: C, 31.83; H, 2.82; N, 30.84. ¹H-NMR (10% NaOD-D₂O): 3.14 (3H, s, CH₃), 8.21 (1H, s, 2-H). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{0.1 \text{ NHCl}}$ nm (ϵ): 206 (19200), 268 (18200); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ nm (ϵ): 215.5 (21600), 275 (18200); $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{0.1 \text{ N}}$ nm (ϵ): 219.5 (19200), 275 (18200).

8-Hydroxy-6-methylaminopurine (16)—A suspension of **15** (456 mg, 2 mmol) in conc. HCl (20 ml) was refluxed for 3 h with stirring. The reaction mixture was adjusted with 28% NH₄OH to pH 8 and cooled in an ice bath. The precipitate was collected and dissolved in dil. KOH. Insoluble materials were filtered off and the filtrate was adjusted with AcOH to pH 4. After cooling in an ice bath, the precipitate was collected and washed with H₂O to give **16** (270 mg, 82%) as a colorless powder, mp > 320 °C (lit. 12) mp > 300 °C). *Anal.* Calcd for $C_6H_7N_5O \cdot 1/5H_2O : C$, 42.70; H, 4.42; N, 41.50. Found: C, 42.91; H, 4.33; N, 41.65. UV $\lambda_{max}^{0.1 \text{ NHCl}}$ nm (ϵ): 274 (14100); $\lambda_{max}^{H_2O}$ nm (ϵ): 272 (16600); $\lambda_{max}^{0.1 \text{ NAOH}}$ nm (ϵ): 281 (17800).

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