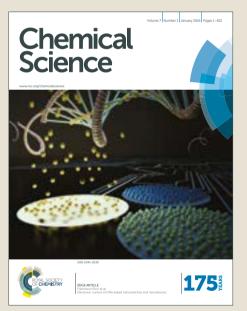
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# Expedient Synthesis of Heneicosasaccharyl Mannose Capped Arabinomannan of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Cellular Envelope by Glycosyl Carbonate Donors

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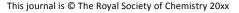
Global incidence of tuberculosis is increasing at an alarming rate and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) is the causative agent for the tuberculosis, a disease triggering maximum mortality. Lipoarabinomannan (LAM) is one of the major components of the Mtb cellular envelope and is an attractive scaffold for developing anti-tubercular drugs, vaccines and diagnostics. Herein, a highly convergent strategy is developed for the first synthesis of heneicosasaccharyl arabinomannan. Arabinomannan synthesized in this endeavour has several 1,2-*trans* or  $\alpha$ -Araf linkages and three 1,2-*cis* or  $\beta$ -Araf linkages end capped with 1,2-*trans* or  $\alpha$ -Manp linkages. All key glycosidations were performed with alkynyl carbonate glycosyl donors under [Au]/[Ag]-catalysis conditions, which gave excellent yields and stereoselectivity even for the reactions between complex- and branched oligosaccharides. The resultant allyl oligosaccharide was globally deprotected to obtain the heneicosasaccharyl arabinomannan as a propyl glycoside. In summary, the heneicosasaccharyl mannose capped arabinomannan synthesis was achieved in 56 steps with 0.016% overall yield.

## Introduction

World-wide resurgence of mycobacterial infections coupled with the emergence of multi-drug and extreme drug resistance placed tuberculosis (TB) as a major public health concern.<sup>1-3</sup> The only available protection against tuberculosis is the BCG vaccine; however, multi-centered clinical trials demonstrated variable efficiency.<sup>4</sup> Tuberculosis infection is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) with a thick waxy cell wall making the drugs impervious.<sup>5,6</sup> As a consequence, patients suffering from TB are prescribed to long regimen of multiple drugs. Therefore, TB is an ever growing challenge, and novel strategies to diagnose, control or eradicate it are in great demand.

The chemical structure of the waxy cellular envelope has been identified to be a unique glycocalyx comprising mycolic acids, Araf-, Galf-, Manp-, Rhap- and Inositols.<sup>7-10</sup> Further investigations revealed that the glycocalyx contains trehalose lipids, lipoarabinomannan (LAM), arabinogalactan (AG) and peptidoglycan.<sup>7-10</sup> Of these, structure of LAM was noticed to have a key C-3 branched arabinan domain with many  $\alpha$ -1 $\rightarrow$ 5-linked D-Arafs, and a few  $\beta$ -1 $\rightarrow$ 2-linked D-Arafs capped with  $\alpha$ -1 $\rightarrow$ 2 linked D-Manps at the non-reducing end.<sup>7-10,13</sup> It has been well established that mannose capped LAM (ManLAM) is prevalent in more pathogenic mycobacterial species such as M. tuberculosis, M. leprae, M. bovis.<sup>11-13</sup> ManLAM has been shown to inhibit production of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) and interleukin-12 (IL-12) by human dendritic cell and

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Experimental procedures, compound characterization data and spectral charts. See DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x



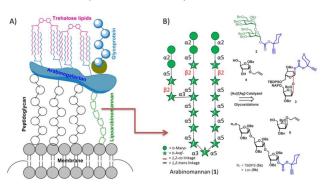


Figure 1. Cartoon representation of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* cell wall (A) and retrosynthesis of Heneicosasaccharyl mannose capped arabinan (B).

and macrophages *in vitro* to modulate M. tuberculosis induced macrophage apoptosis.<sup>14,15</sup> Quite recently, a rapid point of care diagnostic kit was developed exploiting the antigenic properties of ManLAM.<sup>16-18</sup> In another study LAM is investigated as a candidate vaccine for the mycobacterial diseases. Thus, non-reducing end portion of LAM is beneficial for various immunological studies, diagnostics and development of carbohydrate-based tuberculosis vaccine.

Owing to the significance of ManLAM, the synthesis of ManLAM and arabinan fragments was attempted over the last two decades.<sup>19-27,44</sup> A recent investigation by Guo's group verified the synthetic and immunological potential of protein conjugated ManLAM fragments.<sup>28</sup> However, far too little attention has been paid to synthesize the large oligomer of the ManLAM. The main aim of the current research has therefore been to synthesize the naturally occurring large

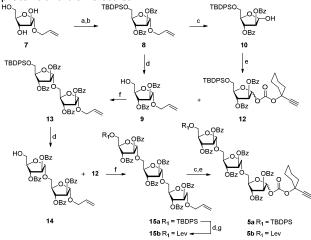
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oligosaccharide portion of ManLAM such as arabinomannan **1** (figure 1) to facilitate vaccine and diagnostic development.

## **Results and Discussion**

The arabinomannan moiety (1) offers enough complexity and challenges for its synthesis in terms of type, number of linkages and asymmetric branching. A careful retrosynthetic disconnection revealed that the target molecule as a propyl glycoside can be synthesized conveniently using two disaccharides (2,3), two monosaccharides (4,6) and a trisaccharide (5) (Figure 1). Apart from the continued interest,  $^{\rm 29\text{-}34}$  alkynyl carbonate donors are chosen as they undergo catalytic activation in the presence of gold and silver salts, fast and high yielding.<sup>35</sup> Neighboring group or reciprocal donor acceptor selectivity assisted synthesis of 1,2-trans or  $\alpha$ linkages and stereoelectronics guided 1,2-cis or  $\beta$ -Araf was envisioned.<sup>36</sup> Allyl moiety was strategically placed at the anomeric position since it is stable and orthogonal to -OTBDPS, -OBz, -ONAP protecting groups and can be converted to hemiacetals en route to the glycosyl donor preparation. In addition, allyl moiety can also be exploited for conjugation of proteins and biomolecules. 37-40



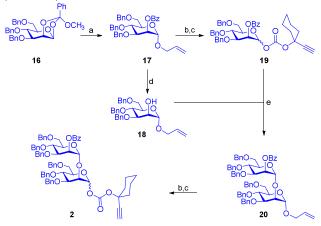
**Scheme 1.** Reagents: a) TBDPS-Cl, Im., DMF, 0 °C, 1 h, 82%; b) BzCl, pyridine, DMAP, 0-25 °C, 5 h, 93%; c) PdCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (1:4), 25 °C, 4 h, 85%; d) HF<sup>-</sup>py, pyridine, 0-25 °C, 5 h, 93% for **9**, 91% for **14**, 90% for **15b**; e) 1-ethynylcyclohexyl (4-nitrophenyl) carbonate (**11**), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, DMAP, 0-25 °C, 3 h, 85% for **12**, 83% for **5a** and 85% for **5b** over two steps respectively; f) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite] gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, 25 °C, 15 min, 95% for **13**, 92% for **15a**; g) Levulinic acid, DIC, DMAP, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0-25 °C, 2 h, 95%.

Our synthetic endeavour started with the preparation of triarabinofuranosyl carbonate donor (Scheme 1). Easily accessible allyl arabinofuranoside  $7^{41}$  was converted into fully protected compound **8** by first protecting the *C*-5-OH as silyl ether using TBDPS-Cl followed by the protection of remaining hydroxyls as benzoates with BzCl/py/DMAP. Compound **8** serves as a common building block for the synthesis of both glycosyl donor and acceptor as well. Accordingly, compound **8** has been split into two portions and one portion was converted into the glycosyl acceptor **9** by the treatment of with HF py in THF whereas the second portion was converted

into hemiacetal **10** using  $PdCl_2$ ; subsequently, transformed to glycosyl donor **12** by reacting with easily available ethynyl cyclohexyl (4-nitrophenyl) carbonate **11** (Scheme 1).<sup>47</sup>

The first [Au]/[Ag]-glycosidation between acceptor **9** and donor **12** was successfully performed to afford disaccharide **13** in excellent yields.<sup>35</sup> In continuation, lone silyl ether was deprotected under HF<sup>-</sup>py conditions to afford acceptor **14** which was glycosylated again with the glycosyl donor **12** under gold/silver catalytic conditions to obtain trisaccharide **15a** as an allyl glycoside. Cleavage of the silyl ether, protection as levulinoate resulted into the other required trisaccharide **15b**. Trisaccharides **15a** and **15b** are respectively converted easily into the triarabinofuranosyl carbonate donors **5a** and **5b** (Scheme 1).<sup>46</sup>

In parallel, allyl mannopyranoside **17** was synthesized from known mannopyranosyl 1,2-orthoester  $16^{27}$  under acidic conditions. Subsequently, allyl glycoside **17** by splitting into two portions and one part was subjected to saponification under Zemplén conditions<sup>42</sup> to afford the acceptor **18** and the other part was converted into the glycosyl donor **19** in two easy steps. The gold/silver assisted glycosidation between the donor **19** and the acceptor **18** underwent uneventfully affording 93% of the disaccharide **20** which was subsequently converted into the other required building block **2** in two steps (Scheme 2).<sup>46</sup>



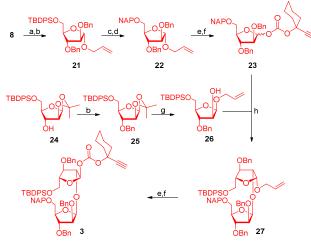
Scheme 2. Reagents: a) PTSA (0.2 eq.), Allyl alcohol, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, 25 <sup>o</sup>C, 1 h, 86%; b) PdCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (1:4), 25 <sup>o</sup>C, 4 h, 90% towards 19; c) 11, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, DMAP, 0-25 <sup>o</sup>C, 3 h, 78% for 19, 83% for 2 over two steps; d) NaOMe, MeOH, 25 <sup>o</sup>C, 1 h, 94%; e) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)phosphite]gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, 25 <sup>o</sup>C, 15 min, 93%.

Synthesis of the next important 1,2-*cis* disaccharide **3** was initiated with saponification of compound **8** under Zemplén conditions (NaOMe/MeOH); subsequent conversion to benzyl ethers afforded compound **21**. Moving on, the cleavage of the silyl ether using HF<sup>-</sup>py and protection of the resulting hydroxyl group as NAP ether underwent effortlessly by employing NAP-Br to afford NAP-protected allyl glycoside **22**. Hydrolysis of the allyl glycoside using PdCl<sub>2</sub> and conversion to the corresponding donor **23** was achieved in very high yield. In parallel, compound **24** was protected as benzyl ether **25** using NAH/BnBr/DMF and opening of the isopropylidene moiety was

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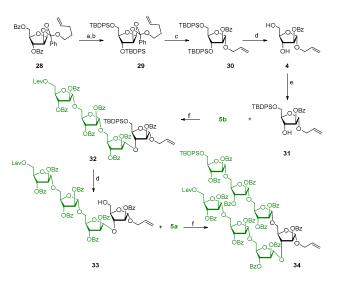
performed in the presence of allyl alcohol under acidic conditions to afford an  $\alpha,\beta$ -mixture of glycosides.

Earlier studies from our group demonstrated that the reciprocal donor acceptor selectivity depends on the reactivity of the nucleophile and the stereoelectonics around the C-2 position of the glycosyl acceptor.<sup>36</sup> Accordingly, allyl glycosides were separated by flash silica gel column chromatography and isolated the required 1,2-cis disposed allyl glycoside 26. Glycosyl donor 23 and acceptor 26 were subjected to [Au]/[Ag]-catalysed glycosidation conditions to afford the 1,2cis or  $\beta$ -disaccharide 27 in 92% yield as a single diastereomer further verifying our earlier results.<sup>36,46</sup> Subsequently, the disaccharide 27 was converted into the required glycosyl donor 3 in two steps viz. Pd-catalysed hydrolysis of allyl glycoside to hemiacetal followed by its conversion to the ethynylcyclohexyl carbonate by treating with compound 11 and DMAP. Orthogonally cleavable TBDPS and NAP ethers are selected to install mannopyranosyl disaccharide at a later stage (Scheme 3).



Scheme 3. Reagents: a) NaOMe, MeOH, 25 °C, 1 h, 90%; b) NaH, BnBr, TBAI, DMF, 0-25 °C, 1 h, 91% for 21 and 93% for 25; c) HF py, pyridine, 0-25 °C, 5 h, 92%; d) NaH, NAPBr, TBAI, DMF, 0-25 °C, 2 h, 90%; e) PdCl<sub>2</sub>,  $CH_2Cl_2$ -MeOH (1:4), 25 °C, 4 h; f) 11, DMAP,  $CH_2Cl_2$ , 0-25 °C, 3 h, 82% for 23, 78% for 3 over two steps; g) PTSA (0.2 eq.), Allyl alcohol,  $CH_2Cl_2$ , 50 °C, 2 h, 45%; h) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite] gold, 8mol% AgOTf,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $A^{A}$  MS powder, -78 °C, 5 h, 92%.

Synthesis of another monosaccharide **4** commenced with the saponification of easily accessible **28**<sup>43</sup> under Zemplén conditions (NaOMe/MeOH) followed by its conversion to disilyl ether **29** using TBDPSCI/Im./DMAP in 81% yield over two steps. Acid mediated opening of the 1,2-orthoester in the presence of allyl alcohol afforded the allyl glycoside in 80% yield. Cleavage of the silyl ethers was achieved using HF<sup>-</sup>py to afford the allyl glycoside **4**, resulting *C*-5 hydroxyl group was protected as its silyl ether to afford the glycosyl acceptor **31**.



 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Scheme 4. Reagents: a) NaOMe, MeOH, 25 ^{o}C, 1 h, 95\%; b) TBDPS-Cl (2.5 eq.), Im., DMF, 0-25 ^{o}C, 2 h, 85\%; c) PTSA (0.2 eq.), excess allyl alcohol, CH_2Cl_2, 4Å MS powder, 25 ^{o}C, 1 h, 80\%; d) HF py, pyridine, 0-25 ^{o}C, 6 h, 90\% for 4, 90\% for 33; e) TBDPS-Cl, Im., DMF, 0 ^{o}C, 1 h, 80\%; f) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl]phosphite]gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH2Cl2, 4Å MS powder, 25 ^{o}C, 20 min, 95\% for 32 and 92\% for 34. \\ \end{array}$ 

Synthesis of enough quantities of all identified major partners driven the assembly of ManLAM. Accordingly, glycosyl acceptor **31** and the glycosyl donor **5b** were first glycosylated under gold-silver catalysed glycosidation conditions to afford the tetrasaccharide **32** in excellent yield.<sup>46</sup> Deprotection of the silyl ether using HF<sup>•</sup>py to obtain **33** and subsequent treatment with glycosyl donor **5a**, 8mol% each of AgOTf and goldphosphite catalyst in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> afforded the required heptasaccharide **34** in 92% yield (Scheme 4).

Protection of the C-2 hydroxyl group of compound 26 as a benzoate followed by the unblocking of C-5 hydroxyl group by the addition of HF py resulted into the glycosyl acceptor 6. Subsequently, glycosyl acceptor 6 was treated with the donor 3 under gold-silver catalyzed conditions to afford the required trisaccharide 35.35 Diastereoselectivity of the reaction was noticed to be temperature dependent. The diastereomeric ratio swung in favour of the desired  $\alpha$ -isomer as the temperature of the reaction was lowered. Best 8:1 ratio ( $\alpha$ : $\beta$ ) in favour of desired isomer with an overall yield of 90% (translates to 80% of the trisaccharide 35) was accomplished at -78 °C that might be due to the presence of bulky 5-O-TBDPS moiety (Scheme 5).<sup>36</sup> The naphthyl moiety was deprotected using DDQ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ -MeOH (1:4) at 25 °C to obtain the acceptor 36 which was further treated with the mannopyranosyl donor 2 to obtain the pentasaccharide 37 in 76% yield. Two step conversion transformed allyl glycoside 37 into the glycosyl donor 38 in 75% (Scheme 5).

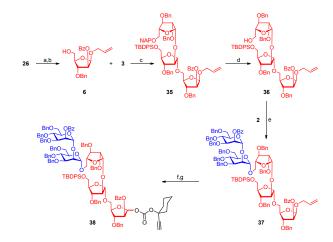
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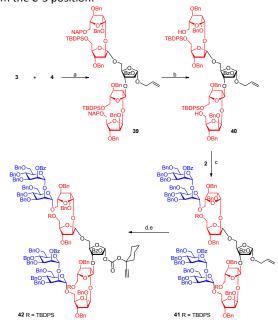
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**Scheme 5.** Reagents: a) BzCl, pyridine, DMAP, 0-25 °C, 5 h, 93%; b) HF<sup>-</sup>py, pyridine, 0-25 °C, 5 h, 94%; c) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite]gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, -78 °C, 5 h, 80% (overall yield 90% with  $\alpha$ :β = 8:1); d) DDQ, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (1:4), 25 °C, 4 h, 82%; e) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite]gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, 25 °C, 15 min, 76%; f) PdCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (1:4), 25 °C, 4 h; g) **11**, DMAP, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0-25 °C, 3 h, 75% over two steps.

Glycosidation reaction between donor **3** and acceptor **4** afforded another pentasaccharide **39** as an allyl glycoside in 77% yield in the presence of 8mol% each of Au-phosphite and AgOTf. The stereochemical outcome of glycosidation was noticed to be temperature dependent. Careful analysis of the glycosidation revealed that the mixture of glycosides ( $\alpha$ : $\beta$  = 8:1) is resulting from the *C*-5 position of the acceptor; but, not from the *C*-3 position.



Scheme 6. Reagents: a) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite]gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, -78 °C, 5 h, 77% (overall yield 87% with  $\alpha$ : $\beta$  = 8:1); b) DDQ, CH2Cl2-MeOH (1:4), 25 °C, 4 h, 75%; c) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite]gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, 25 °C, 15 min, 60%; d) PdCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH (1:4), 25 °C, 4 h; e) **11**, DMAP, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0-25 °C, 3 h, 76% over two steps.

Gratifyingly, the mixture of pentasaccharides could be separated using flash silica gel column chromatography to obtain 77% of the desired pentasaccharide **39**.<sup>15</sup> Deprotection of NAP-ether was achieved to afford the diol **40** which upon treatment with mannopyranosyl donor **2** gave nonasaccharide **41**. In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of the nonasaccharide **41**, resonances due to nine anomeric carbons were noticed at  $\delta$  98.6, 98.8, 99.7, 99.8, 100.0, 100.5, 105.1, 105.5, and 106.8 ppm. Subsequently, the nonasaccharide was converted into the corresponding carbonate glycosyl donor **42** in 76% yield (Scheme 6).

The final assembly of heneicosaarabinomannan 1 started with the deprotection of silyl ether 34 using HF py to afford alcohol 43 which was glycosylated with donor 38 using 8mol% each of gold-phosphite and AgOTf to afford dodecassacharide 44 in 85% yield. Twelve characteristic resonances due to anomeric carbons were noticed in the anomeric region ( $\delta$  98.7–106.2 ppm) of the spectrum.<sup>46</sup> The lone levulinoate was hydrolysed with hydrazine acetate in THF-MeOH to afford the required glycosyl acceptor **45**.<sup>45</sup> The final glycosidation between acceptor 45 containing twelve saccharide residues and the glycosyl donor 42 containing nine carbohydrate residues was performed in the presence of 8mol% each of Au-phosphite and AgOTf to observe formation of the fully protected heneicosaarabinomannan 46 in 80% yield. In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of arabinomannan 46, resonances due to the anomeric carbons were noticed as two sets centred on  $\delta$  98.8-100.7 ppm and  $\delta$  105.1-107.3 ppm for 21-anomeric carbons (Scheme 7).<sup>4</sup> Oligosaccharide **46** can be subjected to variety of reactions in order to attach biomolecules; however, global deprotection of compound 46 was considered to show that the molecule is stable to conditions employed for the cleavage of protecting groups. Cleavage of the three silyl ethers was carried out using the HF'py, Zemplén debenzoylation resulted in the saponification of eighteen benzoates and the final hydrogenolysis with Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> caused the deprotection of twenty eight benzyl ethers and reduction of the olefin as well affording the heneicosaarabinomannan (47) as its propyl glycoside.

## Conclusions

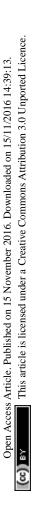
In summary, execution of the highly convergent and modular strategy has led to the first synthesis of branched-, hybrid- and complex- arabinomannan (containing 15-Araf and 6-Manp-residues) of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* cell wall in sufficient amounts for biological explorations with an overall yield of 0.016% yield. Stable alkynyl carbonate glycosyl donors are shown to be versatile glycosyl donors for the synthesis of large oligosaccharides. [Au]/[Ag]-Catalytic conditions are employed for all key glycosylations. 1,2-*cis* Araf and some 1,2-*trans* Araf linkages were installed taking advantage of reciprocal donor-acceptor selectivity. Taken together, the synthesis uses stable reactants, catalytic quantities of noble metal salts; therefore, experimentally less demanding and operationally convenient.

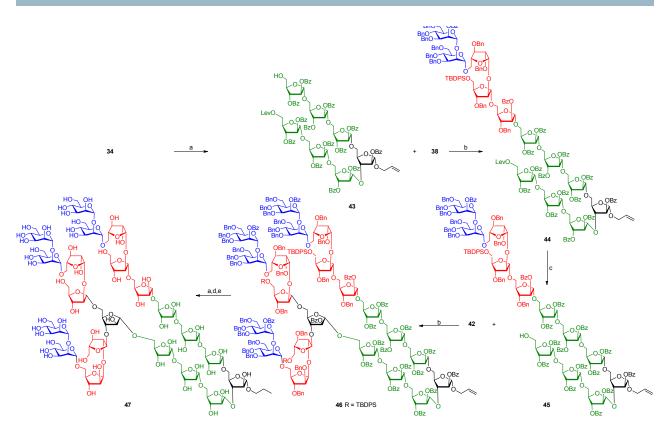
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Scheme 7. Reagents: a) HF<sup>:</sup>py, pyridine, 0-25 °C, 5 h, 83% for 43, 80% for 47; b) 8mol% chloro[tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite]gold, 8mol% AgOTf, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 4Å MS powder, 25 °C, 30 min, 85% for 44 and 80% for 46; c) Hydrazine acetate, THF-MeOH (4:1), 25 °C, 45 min, 80%; d) NaOMe, MeOH, 25 °C, 15 h, 87%; e) Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH-THF-H<sub>2</sub>O (4:3:3), H<sub>2</sub>, 36 h, 78%.

## Acknowledgements

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## Notes and references

‡ Araf means arabinofuranose; Manp means mannospyranose, Im. means imidazole, DMAP means 4-*N*,*N*'dimethylaminopyridine, THF means tetrahydrofuran, 4Å MS means 4Å molecular sieves.

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