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## Preliminary communication

# *N*-Amidino-3,4,5-trihydroxypiperidine, a new efficient competitive $\beta$ -glucosidase inhibitor

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The guanidinium ion as an integral part of hydroxylated six-membered ring systems has been used to lend conformational rigidity, as well as a stable positive charge, to so-called transition state analogues resembling glycosyl cations [1]. In all cases described so far, the expected very low inhibition constants of  $< 10 \ \mu$ M were not reached. This disappointing result was, besides the missing "2-hydroxy group", in part attributed to the delocalised positive charge extending into an area which normally remains uncharged and to a shortening of the ring along the 1,4-axis [2]. These apparently unfavourable structural elements can be overcome by placing the guanidine "outside" the ring.

Guanidino monosaccharides have been prepared and their potential for binding to proteins discussed [3]. Extremely high inhibition of influenza sialidase [4] or proteases [5] was observed with guanidino derivatives.

Led by the arguments explaining the weak inhibitory capacity of cyclic guanidinium systems and knowing that lactones, lactams, piperidines, and especially amidines can be very strong inhibitors [6], we prepared and studied a guanidine where one nitrogen is part of the ring skeleton.

Synthesis started from the known 1,5-dideoxy-1,5-iminoxylitol (1) [7], prepared from 5-azido-5-deoxy-1,2-O-isopropylidene- $\alpha$ -D-xylofuranose [8] by catalytic reductive amination in hydrochloric acid using Pt/H<sub>2</sub>. Subsequent treatment of compound 1 with formamidinesulfonic acid [9] in dry DMF in the presence of NEt<sub>3</sub> afforded *meso-xylo*-3,4,5-trihydroxypiperidine-1-carboxamidine (*meso-N*-amidino-xylo-3,4,5-trihydroxypiperidine) (2). Purification by ion-exchange chromatography (Dowex 50W-X8;2 M

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HCl) and crystallisation from MeOH yielded pure 2 as the hydrochloride (50%); mp 212°C (dec);  $R_f$  0.20 (2:2:1 EtOAc-MeOH-25% NH<sub>3</sub>, saturated with NH<sub>4</sub>OAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  3.86 (ddd, 2 H,  $J_{2e,2a} = J_{6e,6a} = 13.5$ ,  $J_{2e,3} = J_{6e,5} = 4.5$ ,  $J_{2e,4} = J_{6e,4} = 2.25$  Hz, H-2e, H-6e) 3.62 (ddd, 2 H,  $J_{3,2a} = J_{5,6a} = 10.2$ ,  $J_{3,4} = J_{5,4} = 8.7$  Hz, H-3, H-5), 3.44 (t, 1 H, H-4), 3.04 (dd, 2 H, H-2a, H-6a). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 34.05; H, 6.67; N, 19.86. Found: C, 33.89; H, 6.77; N, 19.73.



Kinetic measurements with 2 on almond  $\beta$ -D-glucosidase using *p*-nitrophenyl  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside as substrate ( $K_{\rm M}$  227  $\mu$ M) in Na-K-phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 6.80, 30°C) indicated strong competitive inhibition with  $K_i$  2.5  $\mu$ M. The inhibition of yeast  $\alpha$ -D-glucosidase was of the mixed type, uncompetitive inhibition was observed with jack bean  $\alpha$ -D-mannosidase (both in the mmolar range). 1,5-Dideoxy-1,5-imino-xylitol (1) itself was shown by Ganem et al. [7] competitively to inhibit almond  $\beta$ -D-glucosidase with  $K_i$  of 430  $\mu$ M. This clearly indicates the superiority of the guanidinium group by a factor well over 100. Since (*R*)-3-(hydroxymethyl)piperidine-1-carboxamidine<sup>1</sup> (3) does not show any inhibitory effect towards yeast  $\alpha$ -D-glucosidase in the mmolar range, the importance of hydroxy groups, especially in positions 4 and 5, for a "correct" binding adjustment of the ligand and the proper alignment of the positive charge is underlined.

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