SYNTHESES OF 2-0-METHYL-, 3-0-METHYL-, AND 2,3-DI-0-METHYL-D-TALOSE AND SOME DERIVATIVES THEREOF

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ABSTRACT

The title compounds, and some derivatives thereof, have been synthesised from easily accessible benzyl 3-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-galactopyranoside (4). Treatment of 4 with methyl sulphoxide-phosphorus pentaoxide gave the known ketone 5, which was stereospecifically reduced with neutralised sodium borohydride, without cleavage of the benzoate group, to benzyl 3-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (6). Under mild alkaline conditions, 6 was converted into the corresponding 2-benzoate 10. Debenzoylation of 6 gave the diol 7. Methylation of 6, 7, and 10 with diazomethane in the presence boron trifluoride etherate gave the corresponding methylated products in high yield. Removal of the blocking groups by conventional methods gave 2-O-methyl, 3-O-methyl-, and 2,3-di-O-methyl-D-talose. Methylation of 7, with diazomethane in the presence of a catalytic amount of stannous chloride dihydrate showed high specificity to give benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-3-Omethyl- β -D-talopyranoside (16, 89%).

INTRODUCTION

The synthesis of methyl ethers of talose has been hampered by a lack of suitable intermediates. A reducing syrup, presumably 2-O-methyl-D-talose (1), was obtained by acid hydrolysis of 1,6-anhydro-3,4-O-isopropylidene-2-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranose¹. Syrupy 3-O-methyl-L-talose has been prepared as an intermediate in the synthesis of 2-O-methyl-L-lyxose, by acid hydrolysis of 1,2:5,6-di-O-isopropylidene-3-O-methyl-L-talofuranose^{2,3}.

The present report describes the synthesis of 1, 3-O-methyl-D-talose (2), 2,3-di-O-methyl-D-talose (3), and some of their derivatives from readily available benzyl 3-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-galactopyranoside⁴ (4).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-lyxo-hexopyranosidulose 3-benzoate (5) was prepared, as described earlier⁵, by the oxidation of compound 4 with methyl

sulphoxide-phosphorus pentaoxide. Reduction of the ketone 5 with neutralised sodium borohydride⁶ in tetrahydrofuran-ethyl acetate-water (9:3:1) gave 89% of benzyl 3-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (6). The reduction appeared to be stereospecific, as none of the benzoate 4 was detected (t.l.c.) in the crude reduction product. Debenzoylation of compound 6 with sodium methoxide gave the known benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (7).

Treatment of benzoate 6 with methyl sulphoxide-phosphorus pentaoxide yielded the ketone 5, which was characterised as the *p*-nitrophenylhydrazone⁵ 8. This result showed that the benzoate group in 6 had been retained, and in its original position, during the reduction with the reagent. Sodium borohydride usually causes⁷ simultaneous reduction and acyl-ester cleavage. Acyl groups can be retained during borohydride reduction by strict pH control⁸. Treatment⁹ of 4 with dilute alkali is known to yield the corresponding 2-benzoate 9 in high yield. 1,3-Diesters of di-hydroxyacetone can be reduced⁶ to the corresponding acylated derivatives of glycerol with this reagent, without appreciable acyl migration; the reagent should find further application in the carbohydrate field.

Treatment of the 3-benzoate 6 in acetone solution with dilute alkali yielded (t.l.c.) a mixture of unreacted 6, a monobenzoate with $R_{\rm F}$ value lower than that of 6, anu a trace of the diol 7. Column chromatography of the product gave the 3-benzoate 6 (59%) and benzyl 2-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (10, 27%). Examination of the interconversion of 6 and 10 in aqueous acetone under homogeneous conditions¹⁰ showed that these yields represented the approximate equilibrium values. The conversion of 6 into 10 is poor compared with that for the corresponding galacto derivatives⁹, 4 and 9. This is probably due to the unfavorable stereochemistry of the β -D-talo configuration.

With one equivalent of N-benzoylimidazole⁴, glycoside 7 yielded a mixture of the dibenzoate 11, the two monobenzoates (6 and 10), and unreacted 7. No single component preponderated and no attempt was made to fractionate the mixture chromatographically. Treatment of 7 with excess benzoyl chloride in pyridine gave the non-crystalline dibenzoate 11. The lack of selectivity shown by the secondary hydroxyl groups in diol 7 is presumably due to intramolecular hydrogen-bonding⁹. Both HO-2 and HO-3 in compound 7 can form strong hydrogen-bonds with adjacent oxygen functions. For the methyl 4,6-*O*-benzylidenegalactosides, Reichstein and his co-workers¹¹⁻¹⁴ found, in most cases, a higher proportion of the 3-ester in the β - than in the α -series in which both HO-2 and HO-3 groups may form a hydrogen bond.

Treatment¹⁵ of the 3-benzoate 6, in dichloromethane, with excess diazomethane in the presence of boron trifluoride etherate at -15° gave benzyl 3-O-benzoyl-4,6-Obenzylidene-2-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (12) in good yield (77–83%). The product was debenzoylated with methanolic sodium methoxide to give benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-2-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (13). Exhaustive hydrogenation of 13 over a palladium catalyst gave syrupy 2-O-methyl-D-talose (1), which failed to yield a crystalline derivative. Acetylation, followed by chromatography on silica gel, gave a pure, syrupy tetra-acetate 14. Treatment of 1 with phenylhydrazine-acetic acid gave D-lyxo-hexose phenylosazone; 2-O-methyl sugars yield osazones under these conditions¹.

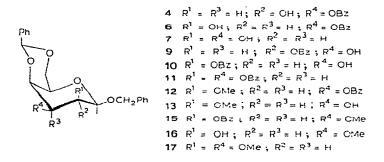
Similar methylation of the 2-benzoate 10 with the diazomethane reagent yielded 76% of benzyl 2-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene-3-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (15). Compound 15 was debenzoylated with sodium methoxide in methanol to give benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-3-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (16) which, on catalytic hydrogenation over palladium oxide, yielded 3-O-methyl-D-talose (2). The syrupy product was characterised as the crystalline tetrakis(*p*-nitrobenzoate).

Oxidative degradation of 2 with active manganese dioxide gave syrupy material having the same chromatographic characteristics as 2-O-methyl-L-lyxose, formed in the same manner from 3-O-methyl-L-talose^{2,3}.

Treatment of diol 7 in dichloromethane-methanol solution with excess diazomethane in the presence of a catalytic amount of stannous chloride dihydrate^{16,17} gave the 3-methyl ether 16. Benzoylation of 16 gave compound 15.

Reaction of 7 with diazomethane in the presence of boron trifluoride etherate gave benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-2,3-di-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (17) in 71% yield.

No reaction was observed between the diol 7 and diazomethane in the absence of a catalyst¹⁷. Hydrogenation of 17 over a palladium catalyst yielded syrupy 2,3-di-O-methyl-D-talose (3), which was characterised as the tris(*p*-nitrobenzoate).



Earlier^{16,17} studies on the partial methylation of C- and O-glycosides with diazomethane, in the presence of stannous chloride as catalyst, have shown similar, high specificity. Intramolecular hydrogen-bonding has been suggested¹⁷ as a probable influence. In the diol 7, both hydroxyl groups are capable of hydrogen-bond formation. The high yield of the 3-O-methyl derivative described above is probably due, in part, to steric reasons. The size of the β -D-benzyl glycoside group and the axial disposition of HO-2 favour methylation at HO-3, which is equatorially situated.

EXPERIMENTAL

I.r. spectra were determined for Nujol mulls. Descending paper chromatography was performed as described previously⁵. Keiselgel 60 (Merck) was used for column

chromatography and silica gel (Merck GF) was used for analytical t.l.c.; compounds were detected by charring with sulphuric acid. Dichloromethane was redistilled from phosphorus pentaoxide before use. Evaporations were carried out at 40° *in vacuo*. All melting points are uncorrected.

Benzyl 3-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (6). — A solution of benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-lyxo-hexopyranosidulose 3-benzoate⁵ (5, 2.8 g) in tetrahydrofuran (45 ml), ethyl acetate (15 ml), and water (5 ml) was cooled to 5° and stirred with neutralised⁶ sodium borohydride (0.465 g) over 1 h. The excess reagent was then decomposed with 2% aqueous acetic acid, and the mixture was evaporated *in vacuo* to dryness. Methanol was evaporated several times from the residue, which was then diluted with water (20 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 25 ml). The combined extracts were washed with water, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a white residue which, on recrystallization from propan-2-ol, gave compound 6 (2.49 g, 89%), m.p. 187-188°, $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 15.5°$ (c 1.73, acetone) (Found: C, 69.9; H, 5.5. C₂₇H₂₆O₇ calc.: C, 70.1; H, 5.7%).

Benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (7). — A suspension of the 3-benzoate 6 (0.25 g) in methanol (30 ml) was treated with 2M methanolic sodium methoxide (0.6 ml) at room temperature for 36 h with stirring. The homogeneous solution was neutralised with methanol-washed Dowex-50 (H⁺) resin, the solid was filtered off and washed with methanol, and the combined filtrate and washings were evaporated. The crystalline residue was recrystallised from propan-2-ol-methanol to give benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (7, 151 mg, 77%), m.p. 168–170°, $[\alpha]_D^{24} - 68.5^{\circ}$ (c 1.49, dichloromethane); lit.⁵ m.p. 171°, $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 70^{\circ}$.

With benzoyl chloride-pyridine, in the usual manner, 7 gave the dibenzoate 11 as a non-crystalline foam, $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 24^\circ$ (c 0.83, methanol) (Found: C, 71.5; H, 5.6. $C_{34}H_{30}O_8$ calc.: C, 72.1; H, 5.3%).

Treatment of 6 with methyl sulphoxide-phosphorus pentaoxide⁵. — The benzoate 6 (0.4 g) dissolved in N,N-dimethylformamide (1.25 ml) and methyl sulphoxide (0.2 ml) was stirred with phosphorus pentaoxide (0.2 g) for 21 h at 65°. The mixture was then poured into ice-water (50 ml) containing sodium hydrogen carbonate (0.4 g), and the solid product was collected, washed thoroughly with water, and dried *in vacuo*. The crude product was recrystallised from propan-2-ol-acetone to give 5 (0.24 g, 61%), m.p. 156–159° (dec.), $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 63°$ (c 0.5, dichloromethane); lit.⁵ m.p. 160–162° (dec.), $[\alpha]_D^{21} + 67°$.

Compound 5 in propan-2-ol-dichloromethane was treated⁵ with *p*-nitrophenylhydrazine to give the *p*-nitrophenylhydrazone 8, m.p. 172–174°, $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 276^\circ$ (*c* 0.9, dichloromethane); lit.⁵ m.p. 174–175°, $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 273^\circ$.

Benzyl 2-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (10). — A solution of the 3-benzoate 6 (1.0 g) in acetone (50 ml) was treated with 0.05M sodium hydroxide (50 ml). A precipitate formed immediately, and the mixture was kept for a further 3 min at room temperature, whereupon ice-water (50 ml) was added. The product was collected by filtration, washed well with water, and dried *in vacuo*. The crude product contained (t.l.c.; benzene-ether, 4:1), in addition to a trace of the diol 7, two

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compounds, one of which corresponded to the 3-benzoate **6**. Elution of the mixture from silica gel with benzene and benzene-ether (4:1) gave **6** (0.59 g, 59%), m.p. 185-187°, $[\alpha]_D^{24} - 13.8^\circ$ (c 1.1, dichloromethane), and the 2-benzoate **10** (0.27 g, 27%), m.p. 18!-183°, $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 61^\circ$ (c 0.6, chloroform) (Found: C, 69.9; H, 5.6. $C_{27}H_{26}O_7$ cale.: C, 70.1; H, 5.7%).

Benzyl 3-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene-2-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (12). — A solution of compound 6 (0.6 g) in dichloromethane (20 ml) at -15° was treated with boron trifluoride etherate (0.03 ml) and, at the same temperature, diazomethane in dichloromethane was then added until a faint yellow colour presisted for 15 sec. After 2 h at 0°, polymethylene was filtered off, and the filtrate was washed successively with saturated, aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate and water, dried (Na₂SO₄), and evaporated. The product was recrystallised from propan-2-ol to yield 12 (0.48– 0.52 g, 77–83%), m.p. 173–175°, $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 31^{\circ}$ (c 8.0, chloroform) (Found: C, 70.7; H, 6.0. C₂₈H₂₈O₇ calc.: C, 70.6; H, 5.9%).

Benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-2-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (13). — A solution of compound 12 (0.7 g) in methanol (85 ml) was treated with 2M methanolic sodium methoxide (1.2 ml) at room temperature for 27 h with stirring. The solution was neutralised with methanol-washed Dowex-50 (H⁺) resin, the solids were filtered off and washed with methanol, and the combined filtrate and washings were evaporated. The crystalline residue was recrystallised from propan-2-ol to give 13 (0.46 g, 84%), m.p. 137–139°, $[\alpha]_D^{24} - 57^\circ$ (c 4, methanol) (Found: C, 67.9; H, 6.8. C₂₁H₂₄O₆ calc.: C, 67.7; H, 6.5%).

2-O-Methyl-D-talose (1). — Compound 13 (390 mg) in methanol (100 ml) and glacial acetic acid (1 ml) was hydrogenated exhaustively in the presence of palladium (from 1 g of the oxide). The filtered mixture was concentrated in vacuo to give syrupy 1 (200 mg), R_{GAL} 1.97, $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 4.6^\circ$ (equil.; c 4, water); lit.¹ $[\alpha]_D - 4^\circ$.

With acetic anhydride-pyridine in the usual manner, 1 gave a syrupy tetraacetate, $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} + 62^{\circ}$ (c 1.8, dichloromethane) (Found: C, 50.3; H, 5.7. $C_{15}H_{22}O_{10}$ calc.: C, 49.7; H, 6.1%).

A solution of 1 (35 mg) in water (1 ml) containing phenylhydrazine (0.1 ml), acetic acid (0.5 ml), and sodium metabisulphite (3 mg) was kept for 2 h at 100°. The yellow, crystalline product was filtered off, and washed successively with 10% acetic acid, water, ethanol, and ether to give D-lyxo-hexose phenylosazone (11 mg), m.p. and mixture m.p. 178–183°; the infrared spectrum was identical with that of an authentic sample.

Benzyl 2-O-benzoyl-4,6-O-benzylidene-3-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (15). — A solution of compound 10 (1.0 g) in dichloromethane (40 ml) at -15° was treated with diazomethane-boron trifluoride etherate and processed as described for compound 6. The product was recrystallised from propan-2-ol to yield 15 (0.783 g, 76%), m.p. 164-166°, $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 47^{\circ}$ (c 0.72, chloroform) (Found: C, 70.5; H, 6.1. C₂₈H₂₈O₇ calc.: C, 70.6; H, 5.9).

Benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-3-O-methyl- β -D-talopyranoside (16). — Compound 15 was treated with 2M methanolic sodium methoxide, as described above for 12. The

crystalline residue was recrystallised from ethanol to give 16 (82%), m.p. 134–137°, $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 77.5^\circ$ (c 2, chloroform) (Found: C, 67.9; H, 6.4. $C_{21}H_{24}O_6$ calc.: C, 67.7; H, 6.5%).

3-O-Methyl-D-talose (2). — Exhaustive hydrogenation of 16 (0.4 g), as described above for 13, gave syrupy 2 (190 mg, 91%), R_{GAL} 2.04, $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 13^\circ$; lit.³ $[\alpha]_D$ (L isomer) -13.5°.

A portion of the product (100 mg) was dissolved in pyridine (5 ml), treated with *p*-nitrobenzoyl chloride (0.5 g), and kept for 4 days at room temperature and then at 80° for 1 h. Work-up in the usual way gave a tetrakis(*p*-nitrobenzoate), m.p. 246–247° (from propan-2-ol-acetone), $[\alpha]_D^{2^2} + 50.5^\circ$ (*c* 1.2, dichloromethane) (Found: C, 52.6; H, 3.4; N, 6.9. $C_{35}H_{26}N_4O_{18}$ calc.: C, 53.1; H, 3.3; N, 7.1%).

Oxidation of 2 with manganese dioxide. — An aliquot part (55 mg) of 2 in water (10 ml) was treated³ with manganese dioxide and then processed to yield, after chromatography [elution with acetone-ethyl acetate (1:2)], 2-O-methyl-D-lyxose (13 mg, 15%) as a gum, $[\alpha]_D^{22} - 5.8^\circ$ (equil.; c 0.65, water); lit.³ m.p. 118-119°, $[\alpha]_D - 6.5^\circ$. The product was indistinguishable [t.l.c., butanone-ethyl acetate (1:2)] from an authentic sample of the L isomer.

Treatment of benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene- β -D-talopyranoside (7) with diazomethane. — (a) With stannous chloride dihydrate as catalyst. A solution of compound 7 (0.4 g) in methanol (20 ml) and dichloromethane (20 ml) containing stannous chloride dihydrate (1.5 mg) was cooled to -5° and treated with a solution of diazomethane in dichloromethane. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5–7 h: t.l.c. then indicated complete reaction. The solvents were evaporated, and a solution of the residue in chloroform (50 ml) was washed with water (50 ml), dried (Na₂SO₄), and evaporated. The crystalline product was recrystallised from propan-2-ol to give compound **16** (0.37 g, 89%), m.p. and mixture m.p. 133–135°, $[\alpha]_D^{22} - 76^{\circ}$ (c 2.4, chloroform).

Benzoylation of 16 gave 15, which was identical to that prepared earlier.

(b) With boron trifluoride etherate as catalyst. A solution of compound 7 (0.8 g) in dichloromethane (85 ml) at -15° was treated with boron trifluoride etherate (0.08 ml) and diazomethane, as described above for compound 6, to yield, after recrystallization (ether-hexane), benzyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-2,3-di-O-methyl- β -D-talo-pyranoside (17; 0.61 g, 71%), m.p. 155-157°, $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} - 4.5^{\circ}$ (c 1, methanol) (Found: C, 67.7; H, 6.9. C₂₂H₂₆O₆ calc.: C, 68.4; H, 6.8%).

2,3-Di-O-methyl-D-talose (3). — Compound 17 (500 mg) was hydrogenolysed, in the manner described for compound 13, to give syrupy 3 (250 mg), $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 9.1^\circ$ (c 4.1, methanol).

To a solution of 3 (200 mg) in pyridine (10 ml) was added freshly recrystallised *p*-nitrobenzoyl chloride (0.75 g). After 78 h at 37°, the product was isolated in the usual manner, and purified by chromatography with butanone-chloroform (4:1) to yield a pale-yellow foam that could not be crystallised; m.p. $85-91^{\circ}$, $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} - 5.1^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.96, dichloromethane) (Found: C, 53.2; H, 4.2; N, 5.9. $C_{29}H_{35}N_3O_{15}$ calc.: C, 53.1; H, 3.8; N, 6.4%).

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