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SYNTHESIS OF β -GLYCOSYL FORMAMIDES THROUGH *N*-GLYCOSYLATION OF UNPROTECTED CARBOHYDRATES

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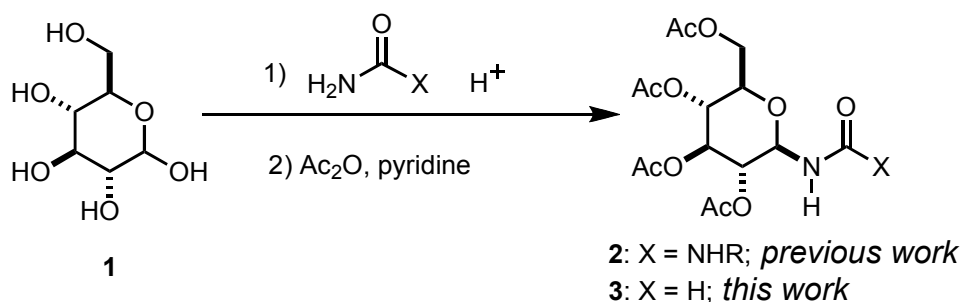
Abstract – Two new synthetic routes involving *N*-glycosylation of unprotected carbohydrates were developed for the preparation of β -glycosyl formamides. Using this protocol, D-glucose, D-xylose, D-galactose and D-maltose were transformed to their corresponding β -glycosyl formamides.

INTRODUCTION

Glycosyl isocyanides are an important class of substances due to their wide applicability to the synthesis of biologically active compounds. For example, oxidation of glycosyl isocyanides generates highly reactive glycosyl isocyanates, which react with amines to afford glycosyl ureas.¹ This methodology has been successfully employed in the total synthesis of the amino sugar antibiotic, glycocinnasperimicin D.² In addition, a unique approach has been developed for the synthesis of *N*-linked glycopeptides that relies on the use of reactions of oligosaccharide isocyanides with peptide thioacetic acids.³ Moreover, an interesting process, which utilizes the Passerini and Ugi reactions of glycosyl isocyanides, has been utilized for construction of a glycoconjugate library.⁴ Finally, helical polymers have been synthesized by using glycosyl isocyanide as monomeric units.⁵

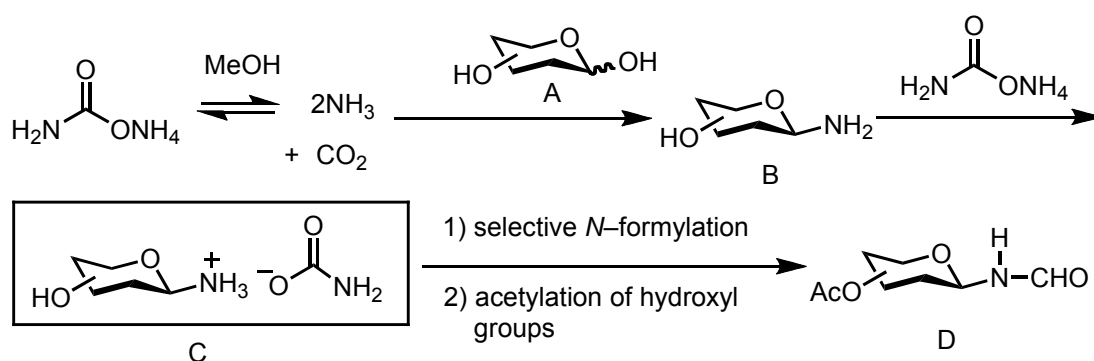
Although glycosyl isocyanides can be conveniently prepared by dehydration reactions of glycosyl formamides, the synthesis of glycosyl formamides is rather tedious owing to the need for multistep sequences involving extensive handling of protecting groups and the requirement for activation of anomeric carbons. The most widely used method for the synthesis of glycosyl formamides begins with glycosyl azides, which are prepared by displacement reactions of the protected glycosyl halides with azide anion or Lewis acid-catalyzed reaction of glycosyl acetates with trimethylsilyl azide. Because of

the tendency of glycosylamines to undergo dimerization, hydrolysis and isomerization, glycosyl azides are carefully reduced to the corresponding glycosylamines, which are immediately formylated to produce the corresponding glycosyl formamides. As a result of these limitations as well as the need to use expensive reagents, a more efficient and economical synthetic method for the preparation of glycosyl formamides is highly needed. As part of our continuing research endeavor aimed at the development on *N*-glycosylation reactions of unprotected carbohydrates, we have devised two new synthetic routes for the preparation of glycosyl formamides. The first approach was inspired by the results of our previously reported studies of the synthesis of β -glycosyl ureas (Scheme 1).⁶ In this effort, we found that unprotected D-glucose (**1**) reacts with a variety of *N*-alkyl ureas to form the corresponding β -glycosyl ureas **2**. Considering the structural analogy between urea and formamide, we felt that formamide would undergo *N*-glycosylation reaction with unprotected D-glucose to generate β -glycosyl formamide **3**.



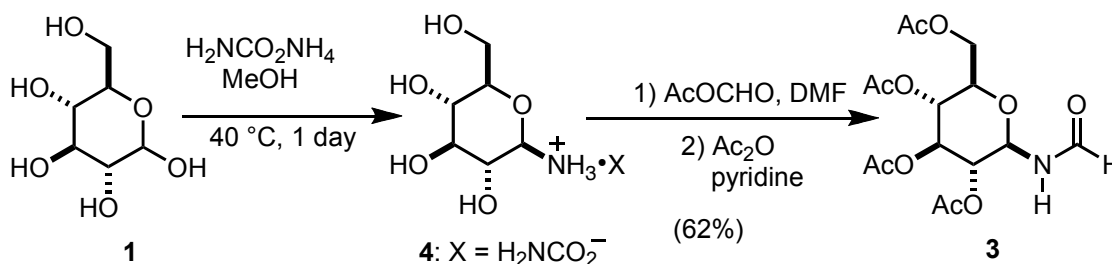
Scheme 1. Plan to synthesize glucosyl formamide inspired by urea glucosylation

The second approach to the preparation of glycosyl formamides stems from a protocol for amination of unprotected carbohydrates reported by Likhoshevstov (Scheme 2).⁷ In this process, unprotected carbohydrates **A** react with ammonia, generated by dissociation of ammonium carbamate in methanol, to produce the corresponding β -glycosylamines **B**, which are precipitated as carbamic acid salts **C** under the reaction conditions. We envisioned that selective formylation of the amine moiety in **C** followed by acetylation of the hydroxyl groups would efficiently produce β -glycosyl formamides **D**.



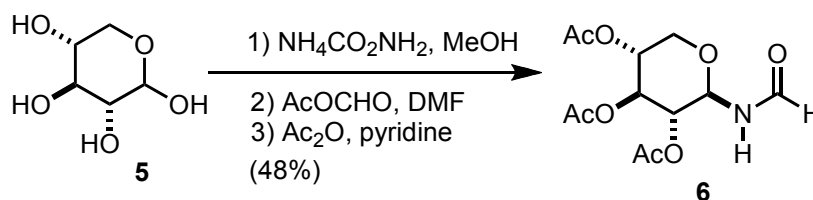
Scheme 2. Plan for β -glycosyl formamide synthesis using the Likhoshevstov method

Finally, selective *N*-formylation of **4** with acetic formic anhydride in DMF and *O*-acetylation with acetic anhydride in pyridine furnished β -glucosyl formamide **3** in 62% yield. Note that ^1H NMR analysis showed that none of the corresponding α -anomer was produced. Importantly, this newly developed three-step sequence enables synthesis of β -glucosyl formamide **3** in gram quantities.



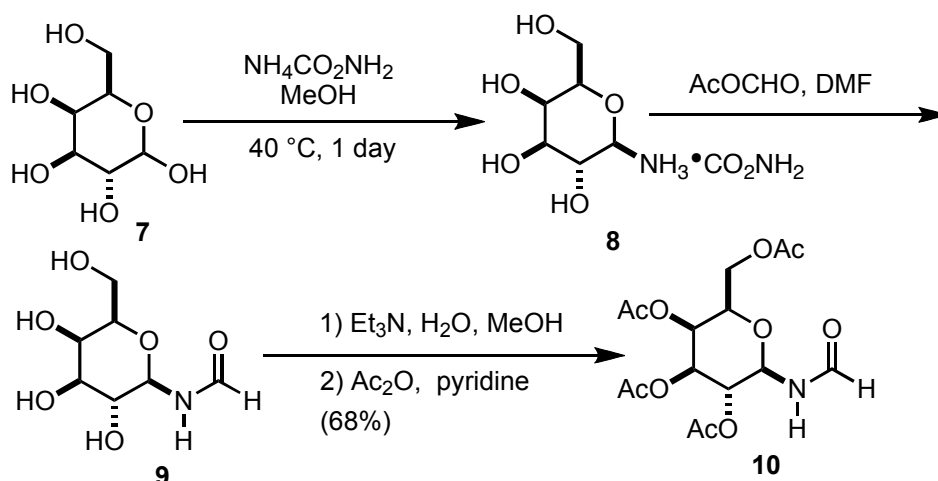
Scheme 4. Three-step synthesis of β -glucosyl formamide

The synthetic method developed in Scheme 4 was extended to the synthesis of β -xylosyl formamide **6** starting with D-xylose **5** (Scheme 5). This process successfully generated β -xylosyl formamide **6** in 48% yield. Here again, ^1H NMR analysis of the crude product mixture demonstrated that none of the α -isomer was produced.¹² This β -selective synthesis of β -xylosyl formamide **6** stands in sharp contrast to a previously reported synthesis of **6** in which a mixture of β - and α -anomers (84:16) was formed.¹³

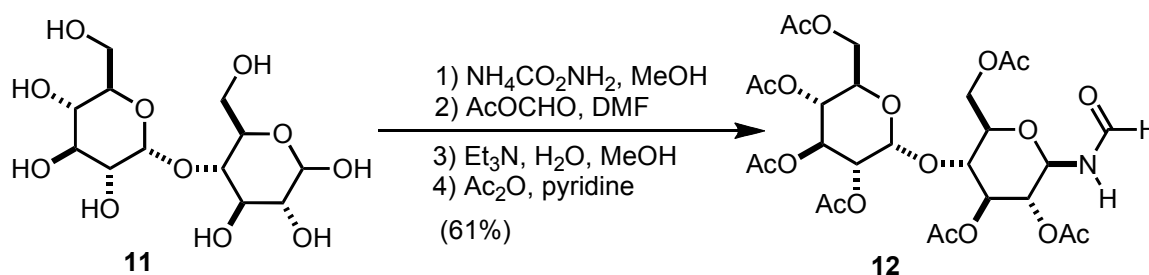


Scheme 5. Synthesis of β -xylosyl formamide

In order to extend the scope of the newly developed glycosyl formamide synthetic method described above, we further examined its application to the preparation of galactosyl formamide (Scheme 6). To our surprise, we observed that the processes produced the desired galactosyl formamide **10** along with unidentified by-products that made purification difficult even after repeating chromatography and recrystallization. ^1H NMR analysis showed that the by-product display a number of small peaks around δ 8.00 ppm, suggesting that partial *O*-formylation of hydroxy groups in **9** occurred during *N*-formylation reaction of **8**. After extensive experimentation, conditions to suppress by-product formation was developed to give rise to **10** in a 68% yield. Specifically, the improved conditions involve treating formamide **9** with triethylamine and water before the acetylation step. This intervening process presumably hydrolyze the formed formate esters of **9**.

Scheme 6. Synthesis of β -galactosyl formamide using an improved method

The improved method developed in Scheme 6 was successfully applied to the synthesis of β -maltosyl formamide **12** (Scheme 7). In this case, formamide **12** was isolated in 61% yield.

Scheme 7. Synthesis of β -maltosyl formamide

Since β -glycosyl formamides, **3**, **6**, **10** and **12** exist as mixtures of (*Z*)- and (*E*)-rotamers, their analysis by using NMR spectroscopy is complicated. Thus, in order to check their homogeneities through ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic analysis, we transformed each β -glycosyl formamide into its corresponding β -glycosyl isocyanide. For this purpose, dehydration reactions of β -glycosyl formamides **3**, **6**, **10** and **12**, were performed by treatment with triphosgene and triethylamine in CH_2Cl_2 at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to generate the corresponding β -glycosyl isocyanides **13**, **14**, **15** and **16** in the yields given in Table 1.¹⁴ Inspection of the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the β -isocyanides confirmed their homogeneities.

CONCLUSIONS

The method developed for the synthesis of glycosyl formamides in the study described above involves direct *N*-glycosylation of unprotected carbohydrates. The procedure, which starts with simple and inexpensive starting materials, is a simple, reliable and efficient synthetic route for the preparation of β -glycosyl formamides.

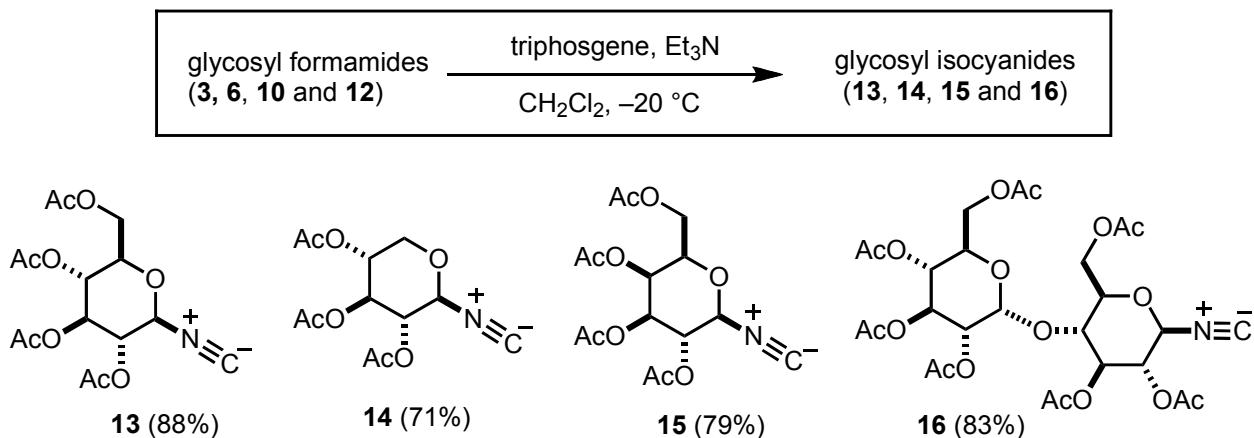


Table 1. Transformation of β -glycosyl formamides into β -glycosyl isocyanides

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were recorded on a micro melting point apparatus and are not corrected. Optical rotations were measured at the sodium D line with a 100 mm path length cell, and are reported as follows: $[\alpha]_D^{25}$, concentration (g/100 mL), and solvent. Infrared spectra are reported in wave number (cm^{-1}). ^1H NMR data are reported with the solvent resonance as the internal standard relative to chloroform (δ 7.26) as follows; chemical shifts (δ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, br = broadened, m = multiplet), coupling constants (J , given in Hz) and integrations. ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts (δ) are recorded in parts per million (ppm) relative to CDCl_3 (δ 77.0) and CD_3OD (δ 49.0) as internal standards. Each glycosyl formamide, **3**, **6**, **10**, and **12** exists as a mixture of amide rotamers on the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR time scale. When two rotamers are observed, signals for the minor rotamers are given in braces. In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum, anomeric carbon resonances of glycosyl formamides appear around 77 ppm and often overlap with the resonance of CDCl_3 . To avoid this inconvenience, ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded using CD_3OD as solvent which has no signals around 77 ppm. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) are reported in m/z . Reactions were run under an atmosphere of argon when the reactions were sensitive to moisture or oxygen. Dichloromethane was dried over molecular sieves 3 Å. Pyridine and triethylamine were stocked over anhydrous KOH. All other commercially available reagents were used as received.

Synthesis of β -D-glucosyl formamide **3 using reaction conditions in Scheme 3.** To a solution of D-glucose (500 mg, 2.80 mmol) dissolved in a mixture of formamide (2.50 mL) and water (1.25 mL) was added Dowex 50W-X8 (2.0 g). The resulting mixture was heated at 60 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 days. The resulting brown reaction mixture was filtered and filtrated Dowex 50W-X8 was washed with MeOH. The combined filtrate was concentrated under vacuum, and the resulting residue was dissolved in a mixture of acetic anhydride (13.5 mL) and pyridine (27.0 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature

overnight and then heated at 70 °C for 20 min. Water (80 mL) was added and stirring was continued for 20 min. The solution was extracted with AcOEt (30 mL, × 3), and the combined organic layers were washed with aqueous 1 M KHSO₄ (30 mL), water (30 mL), aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ (30 mL) and brine (20 mL). After drying (Na₂SO₄), concentration under reduced pressure gave a residue (896 mg), which was subjected to silica gel chromatography (AcOEt/hexane 2:1) to yield **3** (434 mg, 42%) as a white solid: mp 142–143 °C (recrystallized from AcOEt/hexane) (lit.^{9a} 147–148 °C; lit.^{9b} 146–148 °C); $[\alpha]_D^{24} +20.8$ (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃) (lit.^{9a} $[\alpha]_{578} +21$, *c* 0.5, CHCl₃; lit.^{9b} $[\alpha]_D^{20} +20.7$, *c* 0.5, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3368, 1742, 1686 cm⁻¹ [lit.^{9a} ν (KBr) 3340m, 1725s, 1665m, 1490m; lit.^{9b} ν (KBr) 3400, 1750, 1700]; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), {2.04 (s)}, {2.05 (s)}, 2.06 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), {2.09 (s)}, {3.79 (ddd, *J* = 10.3, 4.6, 2.3 Hz)}, 3.83 (ddd, *J* = 10.2, 4.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), {4.27 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.6 Hz)}, 4.31 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), {4.70 (t, *J* = 9.7 Hz)}, 4.95 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), {4.98 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz)}, 5.06 (t, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), {5.08 (t, *J* = 9.7 Hz)}, 5.31 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), {6.27 (t, *J* = 10.6 Hz)}, 6.41 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), {8.19 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz)}, 8.21 (s, 1H); [lit.^{9a} (200 MHz, CDCl₃, *Z*-isomer) δ 2.02, 2.06, 2.08, 2.10 (each 3H, each s, 4 × OAc), 3.85 (1H, ddd, 5-H), 4.10 (1H, dd, *J*_{5,6'} = 2.1 Hz, 6-H'), 4.35 (1H, dd, *J*_{5,6} = 4.8, *J*_{6,6'} = 13.1 Hz, 6-H), 4.98 (1H, t, 2-H), 5.08 (1H, t, *J*_{4,5} = 9.6 Hz, 4-H), 5.33 (1H, t, *J*_{1,2} = 9.6 Hz, 1-H), 5.36 (1H, t, *J*_{2,3} = *J*_{3,4} = 9.6 Hz, 3-H), 6.51 (1H, d, *J*_{NH,1} = 9.3 Hz, NH), 8.26 (1H, s, *J*_{NH,CHO} ~ 0 Hz, CHO); (200 MHz, CDCl₃, *E*-isomer) δ 2.02–2.11 (12H, 4 × OAc), 3.81 (1H, ddd, 5-H), 4.12 (1H, dd, *J*_{5,6'} = 2.1 Hz, 6-H'), 4.28 (1H, dd, *J*_{5,6} = 4.8 Hz, *J*_{6,6'} = 13.1 Hz, 6-H), 4.73 (1H, t, *J*_{1,2} = 9.6 Hz, 1-H), 5.02 (1H, t, 2-H), 5.10 (1H, t, *J*_{4,5} = 9.6 Hz, 4-H), 5.31 (1H, t, *J*_{2,3} = *J*_{3,4} = 9.5 Hz, 3-H), 6.42 (1H, t, *J*_{NH,1} = 10.5 Hz, NH), 8.22 (1H, d, *J*_{NH,CHO} = 10.5 Hz, CHO); lit.^{9b} (200 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 2.03, 2.04, 2.07, 2.09 (s, 3H, 4 COCH₃), 3.83 (ddd, *J*_{5,6a} = 2.2 Hz, *J*_{5,6b} = 4.5 Hz, *J*_{5,4} = 9.5 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 4.09 (dd, *J*_{6a,5} = 2.2 Hz, *J*_{6a,6b} = 12.5 Hz, 1H, 6a-H), 4.30 (dd, *J*_{6b,5} = 4.5 Hz, *J*_{6b,6a} = 12.5 Hz, 1H, 6b-H), 4.94 (t, *J*_{2,1} = *J*_{2,3} = 9.5 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 5.07 (t, *J*_{4,5} = *J*_{4,3} = 9.5 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 5.31 (t, *J*_{1,2} = *J*_{1,NH} = 9.5 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 5.32 (t, *J*_{3,2} = *J*_{3,4} = 9.5 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 6.32 (d, *J*_{NH,1} = 9.5 Hz, 1H, NH), 8.25 (s, 1H, CHO).]; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 20.51, 20.54, 20.6, 20.7, 61.5, {61.6}, {67.8}, 68.0, {70.0}, 70.3, {72.4}, 72.5, 73.7, 76.5, {81.9}, 161.1, {163.9}, {169.4}, 169.5, 169.8, {170.0}, {170.55}, 170.59, 170.9; ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 125 MHz) δ 20.5, 20.57, 20.59, 20.62, 63.1, {63.2}, {69.4}, 69.5, {71.8}, 71.9, {74.53}, {74.57}, 74.65, 74.72, 77.3, {83.0}, 164.0, {167.3}, {171.0}, {171.22}, 171.24, 171.28, 171.52, {171.56}, 172.3; [lit.^{9a} (50 MHz, CDCl₃, *Z*-isomer) δ 20.5, 20.6, 20.7, (OCOCH₃), 61.7 (C-6), 68.1 (C-4), 70.4 (C-2), 72.7, 73.7 (C-3, -5), 76.5 (C-1), 161.2 (NHCO), 169.4, 169.6, 170.7, 170.9 (OCOCH₃); (50 MHz, CDCl₃, *E*-isomer) δ 20.5–20.7 (OCOCH₃), 61.8 (C-6), 68.0 (C-4), 70.1 (C-2), 72.6, 73.7 (C-3, -5), 81.9 (C-1), 163.6 (NHCO), 169.4–170.9 (OCOCH₃); lit.^{9b} (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 20.4, 20.5, 20.6, 20.7 (COCH₃), 61.3 (C-6), 67.9 (C-4),

70.3 (C-2), 72.7 (C-3), 73.7 (C-5), 76.6 (C-1), 161.0 (NHCO), 169.4, 169.5, 170.1, 170.7 (COCH₃)]. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₃₃N₂O₁₂ [M+H]⁺ 517.2028, found 517.2025.

Synthesis of β-D-glucosyl formamide 3 using reaction conditions in Scheme 4. A solution of D-glucose (5.00 g, 27.8 mmol) and finely divided ammonium carbamate (15.7 g, 201 mmol) dissolved in MeOH (160 mL) was stirred at 40 °C for 24 h. The solution was cooled at –20 °C for 2 h. The white precipitate containing β-D-glucopyranosylammonium carbamate was isolated by filtration, washed with a small amount of MeOH and Et₂O, dried under vacuum for 10 min and suspended in DMF (80 mL). To this suspension was added acetic formic anhydride (9.0 mL) to result in a homogeneous solution. After stirring at room temperature overnight, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to give crude glucosyl formamide (9.73 g). The crude glucosyl formamide was dissolved in a mixture of acetic anhydride (25 mL) and pyridine (50 mL). After stirring at room temperature overnight, water (150 mL) was added, and stirring was continued for 1 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with AcOEt (50 mL, × 3), and the combined organic layers were washed with aqueous 1 M KHSO₄ (340 mL), water (40 mL) and brine (30 mL). After drying (Na₂SO₄), concentration under reduced pressure afforded crude product (8.68 g), which was subjected to recrystallization from a hot mixture of AcOEt (8 mL) and Et₂O (40 mL) to furnish **3** as white crystals (5.88 g, 56%). Concentration of the mother liquor gave a residue (2.22 g), which was purified by silica gel chromatography (AcOEt/hexane 1:1 to 3:2) to give additional **3** (662 mg, 6.3%, total yield 62%).

Synthesis of β-D-xylosyl formamide 6. D-Xylose (2.00 g, 13.3 mmol) and finely divided ammonium carbamate (7.00 g, 89.7 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (70 mL) and heated at 40 °C for 24 h. The solution was cooled at –20 °C for 2 h. The precipitated white solids were filtered, washed with a small amount of MeOH and Et₂O, dried under vacuum for 10 min. The crude product (4.94 g) was suspended in DMF (30 mL). To this suspension was added acetic formic anhydride (4.3 mL). A slightly exothermic reaction was observed to afford the homogeneous solution. After stirring at room temperature overnight, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to give crude residue, which was dissolved in a mixture of acetic anhydride (12 mL) and pyridine (20 mL). After stirring at room temperature overnight, water (50 mL) was added, and stirring was continued for 1 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with AcOEt (× 3), and the combined organic layers were washed with aqueous 1 M KHSO₄, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine. After drying (Na₂SO₄), concentration under reduced pressure afforded crude product (2.86 g), which was purified by silica gel chromatography (AcOEt/hexane 1:1) to furnish **6** (1.93 g, 6.3%, 48%): mp 75–76 °C; [α]_D²⁴ +28.3 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3330, 3026, 2944, 2873, 1747, 1704, 1525, 1224 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), {2.04, s}, 2.05 (s, 3H), {3.38 (t, *J* = 11.5 Hz)}, 3.43 (t, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), {4.11 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 5.5 Hz)}, {4.62 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, H-1)}, 4.91 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H),

4.94–5.04 (m, 1H), 5.23 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H, H-1), 5.29 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), {6.63 (t, $J = 11.5$ Hz, N-H)}, 6.74 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, N-H), {8.16 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, CHO)}, 8.20 (s, CHO, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 20.5, 20.58, 20.61, {64.34}, 64.48, {68.49}, 68.8, {70.3}, 70.6, {72.0}, 72.17, 76.95 (C-1), {82.4 (C-1)}, 161.4, {164.2}, {169.76}, 169.79, 169.88, {169.94}, {170.0}, 170.9; ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD , 125 MHz) δ 20.49, 20.53, 20.60, {65.3}, 65.4, {70.1}, 70.3, {71.93}, 72.01, {74.20}, 74.28, 78.0 (C-1), {83.7, (C-1)}, 164.1, {167.3}, {171.1}, 171.3, {171.46}, 171.51, 171.58, {171.63}. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_8$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 304.1027, found 304.1028.

Synthesis of β -D-galactosyl formamide 10. A solution of D-galactose (1.00 g, 5.56 mmol) and ammonium carbamate (2.30 g, 29.5 mmol) dissolved in MeOH (30.0 mL) was heated at 40 °C for 24 h, and cooled at –20 °C for 2 h. The precipitated white solids were filtered, washed with a small amount of MeOH and Et_2O , dried under vacuum for 10 min. The crude product (1.49 g) was suspended in DMF (15.0 mL) and then treated with acetic formic anhydride (1.50 mL). After stirring for 30 min, the reaction mixture became homogeneous solution, which was stirred overnight and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford crude formamide as white solids. These white solids were suspended in a mixture of MeOH (10 mL), water (2.0 mL) and triethylamine (1.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight and the solvent was removed by evaporation. The resulting white solids were dissolved in a mixture of acetic anhydride (5.0 mL) and pyridine (10.0 mL). After stirring at room temperature overnight, the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with ethyl acetate ($\times 3$). The combined organic layers were washed with aqueous 1 M KHSO_4 , water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine. After drying (Na_2SO_4), concentration under reduced pressure afforded crude product (1.74 g), which was purified by silica gel chromatography (AcOEt/hexane 2:1) to furnish **10** (1.41 g, 68%) as white solids: mp 174–175 °C; (lit.^{9a} 167–169 °C); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{26} +35.7$ (c 1.00, CHCl_3); (lit.^{9a} $[\alpha]_{578} +35$, c 0.5, CHCl_3); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3271, 3225, 3059, 1760, 1677, 1551, 1226 cm^{-1} ; [lit.^{9a} $\nu(\text{KBr})$ 3230m, 3180m, 1730s, 1660m, 1530m]; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 1.939 (s, 3H), {1.943 (s)}, 1.99 (s, 3H), {2.00 (s)}, 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), {2.11 (s)}, 3.97–4.10 (3H), {4.65 (t, $J = 10.0$ Hz), H-1}, 5.05–5.15 (2H), 5.27 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz 1H, H-1), 5.39 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), {6.55 (t, $J = 10.0$ Hz)}, 6.66 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), {8.15 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz)}, 8.16 (s, 1H); [lit.^{9a} (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , Z-isomer) δ 2.01, 2.06, 2.08, 2.16 (each 3H, each s, 4 \times OAc), 3.97–4.17 (3H, m, 5-H and 6- H_2), 5.12–5.17 (2H, m, 2- and 3-H), 5.31 (1H, t, $J_{1,2} = 8.3$ Hz, 1-H), 5.45 (1H, d, $J_{3,4} = 0.5$ Hz, $J_{4,5} \sim 0$ Hz, 4-H), 6.41 (1H, d, $J_{\text{NH},1} = 8.3$ Hz, NH), 8.23 (1H, s, CHO)]; [lit.^{9a} (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , E-isomer) δ 2.0–2.2 (12H, 4 \times OAc), 3.97–4.17 (3H, m, 5-H and 6- H_2), 4.67 (1H, t, $J_{1,2} = 9.3$ Hz), 5.12–5.41 (2H, m, 2- and 3-H), 5.45 (1H, d, 4-H), 6.23 (1H, t, $J_{\text{NH},1} = 9.2$ Hz, NH), 8.20 (1H, d, $J_{\text{NH},\text{CHO}} = 9.2$ Hz, CHO)]; ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 20.37, 20.44, 20.51, 20.58, 61.04, {61.1}, {66.8}, 67.0, {67.6}, 68.0, {70.60}, 70.65, {72.27}, 72.38, 76.67 (C-1), {82.2, C-1}, 161.5, {164.0},

169.6, {169.7}, 169.9, {170.0}, 170.3, 170.1; ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD , 125 MHz) δ 20.49, 20.51, 20.53, 20.57, 62.6, {62.7}, {68.8}, 68.9, {69.4}, 69.5, {72.75}, 72.79, {73.4}, 73.6, 77.5, {83.4}, 164.0, {167.3}, {171.2}, 171.38, {171.42}, 171.5, 171.9, 172.1; [lit.^{9a} (50 MHz, CDCl_3 , *Z*-isomer) δ 20.5, 20.6, 20.7 (OCOCH₃, 61.1 (C-6), 67.1 (C-4), 68.1 (C-2), 70.7, 72.5 (C-3, -5), 76.9 (C-1), 160.9 (NHCO), 169.9, 170.0, 170.4, 171.3 (OCOCH₃); (50 MHz, CDCl_3 , *E*-isomer) δ 20.5–20.7 (OCOCH₃), 61.2 (C-6), 66.8 (C-4), 67.6 (C-2), 70.7, 72.4 (C-3, -5), 82.3 (C-1), 163.9 (NHCO), 169.9–171.3 (OCOCH₃)). HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_{10}$ [M+H]⁺ 376.1238, found 376.1238.

Synthesis of β -D-maltosyl formamide 12. A solution of D-maltose monohydrate (1.00 g, 2.78 mmol) and ammonium carbamate (1.40 g, 17.9 mmol) dissolved in MeOH (15.0 mL) was heated at 40 °C for 24 h, and cooled at –20 °C for 2 h. The precipitated white solids were filtered, washed with a small amount of MeOH and Et₂O, dried under vacuum for 10 min. The crude product was suspended in DMF (9.0 mL) and then treated with acetic formic anhydride (0.90 mL, 11.3 mmol). After stirring at room temperature overnight, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford crude formamide as white solids. These white solids were suspended in a mixture of MeOH (10 mL), water (1.0 mL) and triethylamine (1.0 mL). After stirring overnight, the solvent was removed by evaporation. The resulting white solids were dissolved in a mixture of acetic anhydride (4.0 mL) and pyridine (8.0 mL). After stirring at room temperature overnight, the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with AcOEt (\times 3), and the combined organic layers were washed with aqueous 1 M KHSO₄, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine. After drying (Na₂SO₄), concentration under reduced pressure afforded crude product (1.46 g). NMR analysis of the crude products showed that acetylation was uncompleted. Further acetylation of the crude products using the similar conditions described before gave the crude product (1.54 g), which was purified by silica gel chromatography (AcOEt/hexane 2:1 to 4:1) to furnish **12** (1.19 g, 61%) as an oil: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{30} +85.0$ (*c* 1.00, CHCl_3); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3360, 2962, 1750, 1524, 1433, 1048 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 2.00 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 6H), 2.03 (s, 3H), {2.05 (s)}, 2.06 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H), {2.14 (s)}, 3.76–3.83 (m, 1H), 3.90–3.97 (m, 1H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.20–4.26 (m, 2H), 4.44 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), {4.73 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, H-1)}, 4.78 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.32–5.42 (m, 4H), {6.03 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz)}, 6.18 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), {8.18 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz)}, 8.20 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD , 125 MHz) δ 20.57, 20.60, 20.68, 20.8, 21.2, 63.1, 64.31, {64.34}, 69.6, 69.84, {69.88}, {70.65}, 70.68, {71.60}, 71.63, {72.4}, 72.6, {74.7}, 74.8, {75.2}, 75.3, 76.9, 77.0, {82.6}, 97.2, 163.9, {167.2}, {171.14}, 171.16, {171.22}, 171.4, 171.50, {171.54}, 171.67, {171.74}, {171.93}, 171.98, 172.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{38}\text{NO}_{18}$ [M+H]⁺ 664.2083, found 664.2084.

Typical procedure for the synthesis of β -D-glycosyl isocyanides: synthesis of β -D-galactosyl isocyanide 15. To a solution of formamide **10** (0.50 g, 1.33 mmol) and triethylamine (1.50 mL, 10.6

mmol) dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) cooled to $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was added a solution of triphosgene (0.79 g, 2.66 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (4.0 mL) dropwise. After stirring at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 3 h, the reaction mixture was poured into ice-cooled solution of NaHCO_3 (8.50 g) dissolved in water (100 mL), and vigorously stirred at $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min. The separated aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 ($\times 3$). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na_2SO_4), and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resultant residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (AcOEt/hexane 1:1) to afford galactosyl isocyanide **13** (378 mg, 79%) as a white solid: mp $171\text{--}172\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{27} +29.2$ (c 1.00, CHCl_3); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 2985, 2152, 1744, 1378, 1220 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 1.99 (s, 3H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 3.96 (brt, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.78 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.98 (dd, $J = 9.5, 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.40 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.41 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 20.41, 20.48, 20.52, 20.58, 61.1, 66.5, 68.3, 70.1, 73.4, 79.8 (C-1), 164.1, 168.9, 169.8, 169.9, 170.3. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_9$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 380.0952, found 380.0952.

β -D-Maltosyl isocyanide 16. Starting with **12** (797 mg, 1.20 mmol), triethylamine (1.80 mL, 12.9 mmol), CH_2Cl_2 (2.0 mL) and a solution of triphosgene (269 mg 12.6 mmol, dissolved in 3.0 mL of CH_2Cl_2), β -maltosyl isocyanide **16** (596 mg, 83%) was obtained as an oil: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{30} +65.1$ (c 1.00, CHCl_3); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 2963, 2146, 1751, 1434, 1371, 1227, 1037 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 1.99 (s, 3 H), 2.01 (s, 6H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 3.73 (ddd, $J = 9.5, 4.5, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.93 (brd, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.02 (t, $J = 9.5$, 1H), 4.04 (dd, $J = 12.0, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.20 (dd, $J = 12.0, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.23 (dd, $J = 12.0, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.49 (dd, $J = 12.0, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.84 (dd, $J = 10.0, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.86 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H, H-1), 5.00 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.04 (t, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.32 (t, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz) δ 20.3, 20.46, 20.49, 20.51, 20.60, 20.69, 20.72, 61.3, 62.1, 67.8, 68.7, 69.1, 69.9, 71.7, 71.9, 74.4, 74.7, 78.9 (C-1), 95.8, 164.3, 169.2, 169.3, 169.8, 170.0, 170.2, 170.39, 170.41. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{35}\text{NNaO}_{17}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 668.1797, found 668.1795.

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 10. While the syntheses and its characterization data of the β -glucosyl formamide **3** have been reported in the references 9 and 6b, no characterization data has been reported for the corresponding α -anomer. An authentic sample of α -glucosyl formamide was prepared by hydrolysis of the corresponding α -isocyanide. For details, see SI.
 11. Synthesis of glycosides using unprotected carbohydrates dates back to the report by Emil Fischer in 1888. Reaction of D-glucose in MeOH with hydrogen chloride as an acid catalysis produces a mixture of α - and β -methyl glycosides. This Fischer's synthesis has been extensively employed for the preparation of simple *O*-glycosides. a) B. Helferich and W. Schäfer, *Org. Synth.*, 1926, **6**, 64; b) S. Hanessian and B. Lou, *Chem. Rev.*, 2000, **100**, 4443.
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 14. Characterization data of isocyanides **13** and **14** have been previously reported in the references, 1 and 13. For synthesis and characterization data of **15** and **16**, see the experimental section.