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**MILD AND SELECTIVE O-GLYCOSYLATIONS OF PRIMARY
ALCOHOLS WITH THE THIOGLUCOSAMINIDE DERIVATIVE
PROMOTED BY N-IODOSUCCINIMIDE AND HBF₄-ADSORBED ON
SILICA GEL**

Michio Kurosu* and Kai Li

Dedicated to Professor Akira Suzuki on the occasion of his 80th birthday

Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology, College of
Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, 1682
Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1682, USA

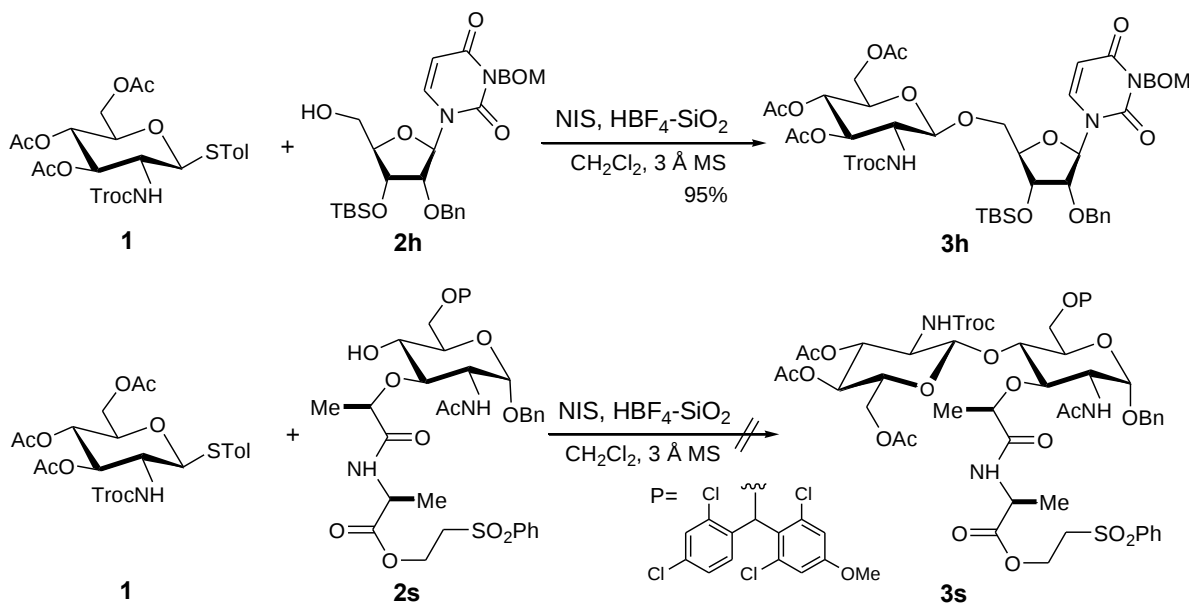
E-mail: michio.kurosu@colostate.edu

Abstract – Selective glycosylations of *primary* alcohols with the thioglucosaminide **1** are achieved by using NIS and HBF₄-SiO₂. HBF₄-SiO₂ is a mild Brønsted acid which requires *primary* alcohols or *phenols* to effectively activate **1** with NIS at rt. A wide range of functional groups are tolerated under these conditions.

Drug design in recent years has attempted to explore new chemical spaces resulting in more complex and larger molecular weight molecules. These molecules often possess limited water solubility. In general, these poorly soluble active new chemical entities present problems in drug administration and formulation.¹ Prodrug strategy has employed to improve the solubility profile of molecules, resulting in increase of the intestinal absorption of poorly water-soluble hydrophobic compounds.² Glycosylation is one of the approaches for increasing water solubility and cellular uptake; a number of examples of the enhancement in the solubility and efficacy of natural products *via* glycosylation have been reported.³ However, rational attempts to improve the oral absorption of poorly soluble active new chemical entities by glycosylation(s) are complicated by the fact that the mechanisms by which new molecules are transported from the gastro intestine to the blood are unknown. In addition, extensive regeneration studies of inactive glycosyl prodrugs by the cellular enzymatic reaction of glycosidase (enzyme specific activation) or hydrolysis *in vivo* are necessary. To date, glucuronide-, glucosyl- and galactosyl-prodrug approaches have been applied to known chemical entities, and their transport and regeneration

mechanisms at specific sites have been well studied.⁴ Although glucosaminyl or *N*-acetyl-glucosaminyl prodrugs are known to exhibit beneficial physicochemical properties (i.e. shorter half-life of hydrolysis (at pH 7.4), and susceptibility to β -D-*N*-acetyl-glucosaminidase),⁵ applications of these prodrug systems to complex molecules have been limited due in part to lack of robust selective glycosylations with glucosamine derivatives. Herein, we report a mild and selective glycosylation of *primary* alcohols with thioglucosaminide with *N*-Troc (2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl) group using NIS (*N*-iodosuccinimide) and $\text{HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$.

Thioglycosaminide with *N*-Troc such as **1** has been widely utilized in synthesis of *N*-acetylglucosamine-containing glycoconjugates.⁶ The thioglycoside **1** is generally coupled to *primary* or *secondary* alcohols in good to excellent yields using a combination of NIS and TfOH ⁷ or other variations of triflate sources.⁸ The Troc group is reliably deprotected *via* a wide range of reductive elimination conditions (i.e. Zn, Cd, or In in the presence of a mild Brønsted acid).⁹ Although reported *O*-glycosylation conditions for **1** are useful for acyl- or benzyl-protected glycosyl acceptors, application of glycosylation of **1** using NIS and strong Brønsted acids or strong acid salts to glycosyl acceptors possessing acid sensitive groups (i.e. silyl or Boc group) generally requires laborious optimization efforts. In our hands, the NIS/ TfOH promoted glycosylation of **2h** with **1** gave the desired product **3h** in poor yield due to desilylation of **2h** or **3h** (Scheme 1).¹⁰ In addition, no reliable condition for selective glycosylations with **1** against *primary* alcohols of polyol molecules has been reported to date. In our investigations of an alternative acid which can promote glycosylation of **2h** with **1** and NIS, we observed that HBF_4 -absorbed on silica gel ($\text{HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$)¹¹ efficiently catalyzed the reaction to furnish **3h** in over 95% yield within 3 h at rt. On the other hand, the glycosylation of the *secondary* alcohol **2s** with **1** did not

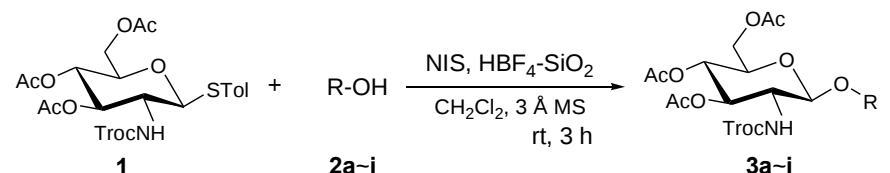
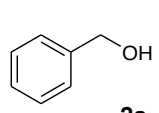
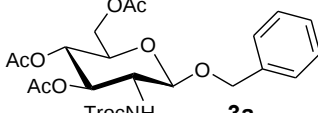
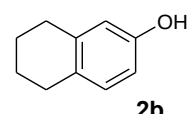
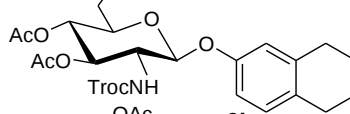
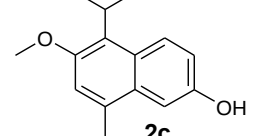
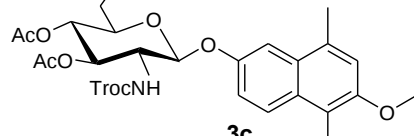
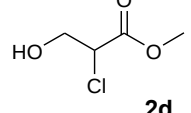
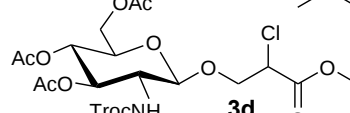
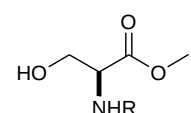
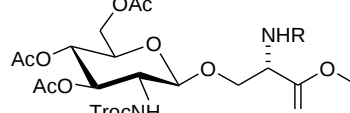
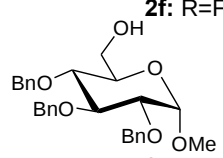
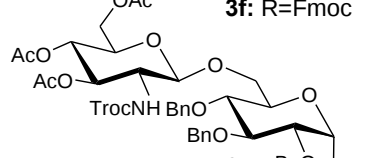
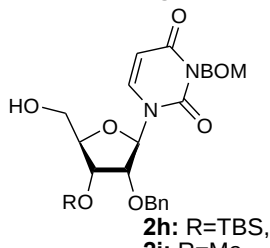
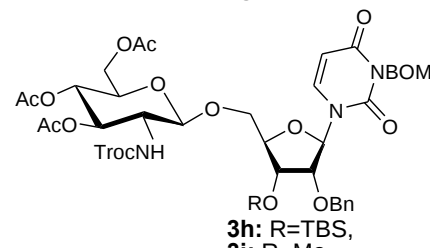
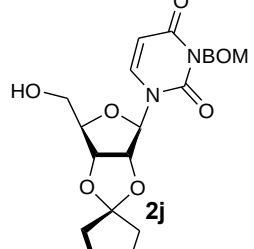
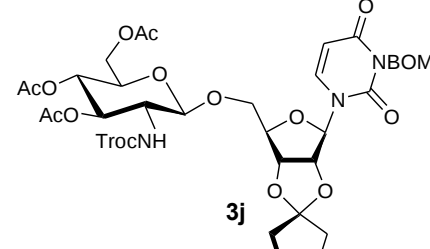


Scheme 1. Investigation of a mild Brønsted acid to promote glycosylations of **1**.

provide the disaccharide **3s** under the same conditions even after prolonged reaction time. Interestingly, **1** and **2s** could be recovered as their intact forms in almost quantitative yields (Scheme 1).¹² The glycosyl donor **1** is activated by using a NIS/TfOH condition in the absence of acceptor alcohols to furnish the corresponding anomeric alcohol. Thus, an unusual reaction mechanism, the *primary* alcohol **2h** efficiently participates in the process of activation of **1**, observed in Scheme 1 may be attributed to the preferential glycosylation of the *primary* alcohol and tolerance of the silyl group in these reactions. Indeed, HBF₄-SiO₂ 1) no longer shows a strong Brønsted acid characteristic as observed for HBF₄•OEt₂ in aprotic solvents, 2) does not catalyze the cleavage of acetal, and acid sensitive ether and Boc groups at ambient temperatures, 3) has a strong affinity for alcohols, but a weak affinity for carbonyls,¹³ and 4) does not cause HBF₄ leaching from silica gel during the reactions or by washing with organic solvents including MeOH.¹⁴ Thus, such a strongly bound HBF₄ on SiO₂ serves as a moderate to weak Brønsted acid.¹⁵

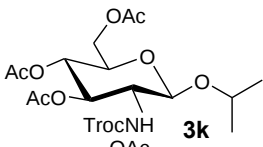
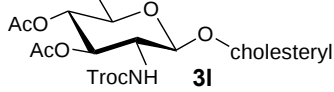
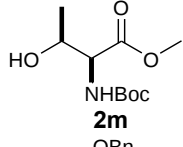
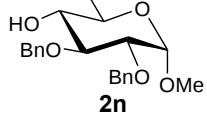
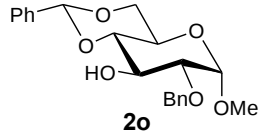
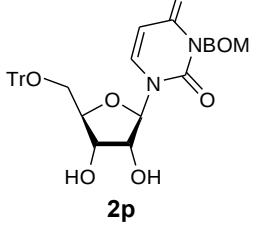
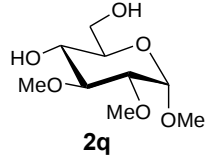
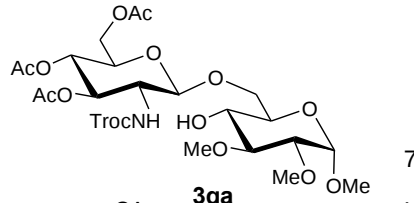
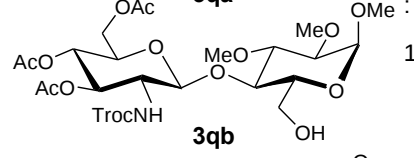
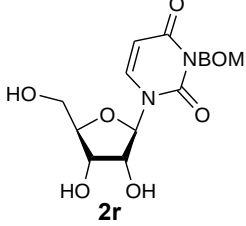
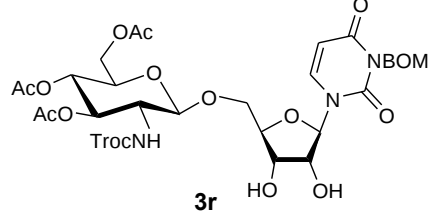
In order to generalize the use of NIS/HBF₄-SiO₂ for selective glycosylations with **1**, a wide range of model donor molecules, *primary*, *secondary* and phenolic alcohols, were examined. In these experiments, acceptors (3~5 equiv against **1**), NIS (2 equiv against **1**), 3 Å MS (~two times its weight in **1**),¹⁶ and HBF₄-SiO₂ (0.8 mmol/g, 2 equiv against **1**) were employed in the reactions in CH₂Cl₂ at rt. Selected examples are summarized in Table 1 and 2. All *primary* and phenolic alcohols investigated were glycosylated to furnish the corresponding β-glycosides within 3 h. Reaction rates of the phenols **2b** and **2c** were faster than those of benzyl alcohol (**2a**) and alkanols (entries 1–8 in Table 1). Glycosylations of structurally simple alcohols **2a–c** resulted in the formation of corresponding β-glycosides **3a–c** in greater than 95% yields. The β-hydroxy ester **2d** and serine derivatives, **2e** and **2f**, were coupled with **1**, and the desired products **3d**, **3e**, and **3f** were isolated with good to moderate yields (entries 4, 5). The Boc group of **2e** was stable under these conditions, however, the isolated yield of **3e** was 30% (>95% yield based on recovering **2e**) due in part to the attenuated nucleophilicity of the hydroxy group of **2e** by forming a hydrogen bond with the neighboring group. Similarly, glycosylation of the Fmoc-protected serine **2f** yielded **3f** in 50 % yield. The *primary* alcohols of the pyranose and furanose derivatives **2g**, **i**, **j** were efficiently coupled with **1** to yield the corresponding β-linked disaccharides **3g**, **i**, **j**, respectively (entries 6–8). As observed in the reaction of **2s** with **1** in Scheme 1, *secondary* alcohols showed poor reactivity against **1** under the HBF₄-SiO₂ promoted glycosylation conditions (Table 2). Glycosylation of 2-propanol (**2k**) with **1** provided the β-linked glycoside **3k** in less than 30% yield after 15 h (entry 9); no detectable amount of **3k** was identified on TLC within 1 h. However, trace amounts of **3k** was formed after 3 h. Less than 5% of the β-cholesteryl glycoside was isolated after 15 h (entry 10). The threonine derivative **2m** and *secondary* alcohols of the pyranose and furanose derivatives **2n–p** did not provide detectable amounts of the corresponding products on TLC even after 15 h (entries 11–13).

Table 1. NIS/HBF₄·SiO₂ promoted glycosylations of **1** with *primary* alcohols.¹⁷

			
entry	acceptor	product	yield (%)
1	 2a	 3a	>95
2	 2b	 3b	>95
3	 2c	 3c	>95
4	 2d	 3d	85
5	 2e : R=Boc, 2f : R=Fmoc	 3e : R=Boc, 3f : R=Fmoc	3e : 30 (>95) ^a 3f : 55 (>95) ^a
6	 2g	 3g	87
7	 2h : R=TBS, 2i : R=Me	 3h : R=TBS, 3i : R=Me	3h : >95 3i : >95
8	 2j	 3j	>95

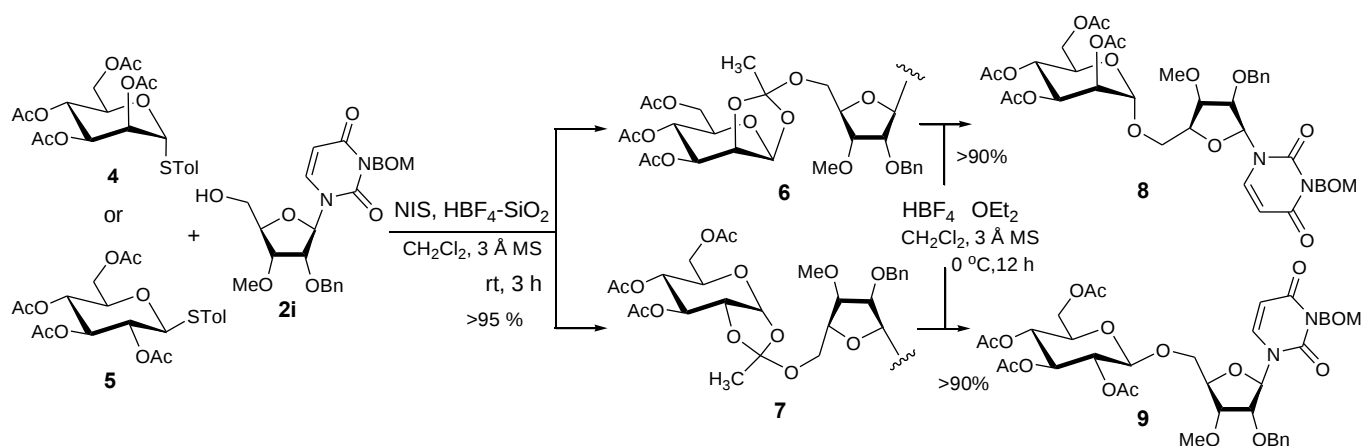
^a Yield based on recovering starting material.

Table 2. NIS/HBF₄·SiO₂ promoted glycosylations of **1** with *secondary* alcohols or a diol or a triol.

$ \begin{array}{c} \text{OAc} \\ \\ \text{AcO} \text{---} \text{C} \text{---} \text{O} \text{---} \text{STol} \\ \quad \\ \text{AcO} \quad \text{TrocNH} \\ \mathbf{1} \end{array} + \text{R-OH} \xrightarrow[\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, 3 \text{ \AA MS, rt, 15 h}]{\text{NIS, HBF}_4\cdot\text{SiO}_2} \begin{array}{c} \text{OAc} \\ \\ \text{AcO} \text{---} \text{C} \text{---} \text{O} \text{---} \text{O-R} \\ \quad \\ \text{AcO} \quad \text{TrocNH} \\ \mathbf{3k-r} \end{array} $			
entry	acceptor	product	yield (%)
9	 2k	 3k	<30
10	cholesterol 2l	 3l	<5
11	 2m	—	—
11	 2n	—	—
12	 2o	—	—
13	 2p	—	—
14	 2q	 3qa	70 (3qa)
		 3qb	10 (3qb)
15	 2r	 3r	72 (3r) 18 (other regioisomers)

Having considered the observation in which *secondary* alcohols are not effectively coupled with **1** under the NIS/HBF₄-SiO₂ conditions, we explored selectivities (*primary* vs. *secondary* alcohol) of glycosylations of a diol and a triol such as **2q** and **2r**. Glycosylation of **2q** furnished a 7:1 mixture of β -glycosides, **3qa** and **3qb**, in 80% yield (entry 14). Similar selectivity against the *primary* alcohol was observed in glycosylation of **2r**, and the disaccharide **3r** was isolated in 72% yield (entry 15). In both cases the over-reaction products were not isolated and the regioisomer is the only byproduct in these reactions. It is worthwhile mentioning that the product selectivities of the reaction with **2q** and **2r** were not improved by shortening the reaction time (3 h) or lowering the reaction temperatures (-20–0 °C). Less *primary/secondary* selectivities observed in glycosylations of the glucose and ribose derivatives, **2q** and **2r**, are not clear. Nonetheless, we observed useful level of selectivity against *primary* alcohol in glycosylation of a diol and a triol.

The NIS/HBF₄-SiO₂ promoted selective glycosylations of *primary* alcohols observed for **1** were applicable to the other tolyl thioglycosides such as **4** and **5**. However, the orthoesters **6** and **7** were formed in almost quantitative yields within 10 min,¹⁸ and **6** and **7** were not rearranged to the corresponding glycosides **8** and **9** even after 15 h. Isolated **6** and **7** could be completely converted to **8** and **9**, respectively, *via* HBF₄•OEt₂ in CH₂Cl₂ (Scheme 2). The experimental data summarized in Scheme 2 confirm that HBF₄-SiO₂ is a mild Brønsted acid and acid-sensitive orthoesters **6** and **7** are not hydrolyzed by HBF₄-SiO₂.



Scheme 2. NIS/HBF₄-SiO₂ promoted glycosylations of **4** and **5**.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated NIS/HBF₄-SiO₂ promoted selective glycosylations of *primary* alcohols with thioglucosaminide **1**. Interestingly, HBF₄-SiO₂ requires the thioglycosides (glycosyl acceptors) and *primary* or phenolic alcohols to efficiently activate NIS.¹⁹ As demonstrated in Scheme 1 and 2, a wide range of functional groups are tolerated under NIS/HBF₄-SiO₂ promoted glycosylation

conditions. Although mechanism of the reactions associated with $\text{HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ is far from understood, beneficial features of $\text{NIS/HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ described above can be applied to selective glycosylations of *primary* alcohols of target molecules, which are difficult to be glycosylated selectively using previously reported conditions.⁶

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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10. *p*-Tolylsulfenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (*p*-TolSOTf) was effective in promoting the glycosylation of **2h** with **1**. However, addition of ScCO₃ was indispensable to avoid desialylation of the TBS group, see: M. Kurosu and K. Li, [J. Org. Chem., 2008, 73, 9767](#).
11. Anhydrous HBF₄ on SiO₂ can readily be obtained by a simple procedure of mixing SiO₂ with ~48% aq. HBF₄ and subsequent removal of H₂O, and is not hygroscopic.
Preparation of HBF₄-SiO₂: To a magnetically stirred suspension of silica gel (20 g, 230–400 mesh) in Et₂O (100 mL), HBF₄ (48% in water, 2.1 mL, 16 mmol) was added at rt. After 3 h, the mixture was concentrated and the residue was dried under high vacuum (1~5 mmHg) at 110 °C for 72 h to give anhydrous HBF₄-SiO₂ (HBF₄: 0.8 mmol/g). Titration studies of the recovered HBF₄-SiO₂ and washing solvents supported that negligible amounts of HBF₄ from SiO₂ are leached during the reactions or washing.
12. In our laboratory, the glycopeptide core of lipid II **3s** has been synthesized via NIS/AgBF₄ in CH₂Cl₂. Under these conditions a gram quantity of **3s** was synthesized with >80 % yield (based on **2s**).
13. Taking advantage of strong affinity of HBF₄-SiO₂ against *primary* or phenolic alcohols, we have used HBF₄-SiO₂ as an affinity matrix for separating *primary* or phenolic alcohols out of crude materials.
14. Titrations were performed with an analytical 0.1 N NaOH solution and phenolphthaleine as an indicator.
15. Recently, HBF₄-SiO₂ was demonstrated for synthesis of acetals from aldehydes or thiiranes from oxiranes, see: (a) V. T. Kamble, B. P. Bandgar, N. S. Joshi, and V. S. Jamode, [Synlett, 2006, 2719](#); (b) B. P. Bandgar, P. V. Abasaheb, V. T. Kamble, and J. V. Totre, *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.*, 2007, **273**, 114. For a study of glycosylations with thioglycosides promoted by NIS and HClO₄-SiO₂, see: (c) B. Mukhopadhyay, B. Collet, and R. A. Field, [Tetrahedron Lett., 2005, 46, 5923](#).
16. MS 3 Å is not indispensable. In order not to obtain inconsistent results caused by adventitious water, activated MS 3 Å (~two times its weight in **1**) was added in all reactions.
17. The following example represents typical experimental procedure: To a stirred suspension of **2i** (282 mg, 0.6 mmol), **1** (117 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 3Å MS (550 mg) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) under N₂

atmosphere was added NIS (45 mg, 0.2 mmol) and $\text{HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ (250 mg, 0.2 mmol). After 3 h at rt, the reaction mixtures were filtrated and washed with EtOAc (5 mL). The combined organic phase was evaporated *in vacuo*. Purification by silica gel chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 2/1) gave the **3i** (178 mg, 96 %). Data for **3i**: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +37^\circ$ (c 1.0, CHCl_3); IR (film): 1746, 1710, 1666, 1070 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.28 (m, 10H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 5.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (s, 2H), 5.17 (m, 2H), 5.09 (m, 1H), 4.88 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (m, 1H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 4.60 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33-4.26 (m, 3H), 4.10 (dd, J = 2.0, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.75-3.69 (m, 3H), 3.63 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.1, 170.9, 169.5, 163.0, 154.2, 151.0, 139.1, 138.0, 137.5, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 101.8, 101.1, 95.5, 89.2, 80.5, 78.8, 76.5, 74.6, 72.3, 72.1, 71.9, 70.3, 68.4, 67.5, 61.9, 58.2, 56.6, 20.9, 20.8, 20.7; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{46}\text{C}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{NaO}_{16}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 952.1841, found: 952.1848.

18. The formation of orthoesters has previously been reported with a number of different glycosyl donors which contain a 2-*O*-acetyl group, see: A. H. Harreus and H. Kunz, [Liebigs Ann. Chem., 1986, 717](#).
19. The reaction mechanism of the $\text{HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ promoted glycosylations with **1** and NIS remains far from understood. However, we speculate that *primary* alcohols interact with $\text{HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ and alcohol protons would activate NIS by coordination with the imido carbonyl of NIS.