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## SYNTHESIS OF THE 5-METHYLURIDINE MONOMER OF 3'-O,4'-C-ETHYLENEOXY-BRIDGED NUCLEIC ACID

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*Dedicated to Professor Dr. Masakatsu Shibasaki on the occasion of his 70th birthday*

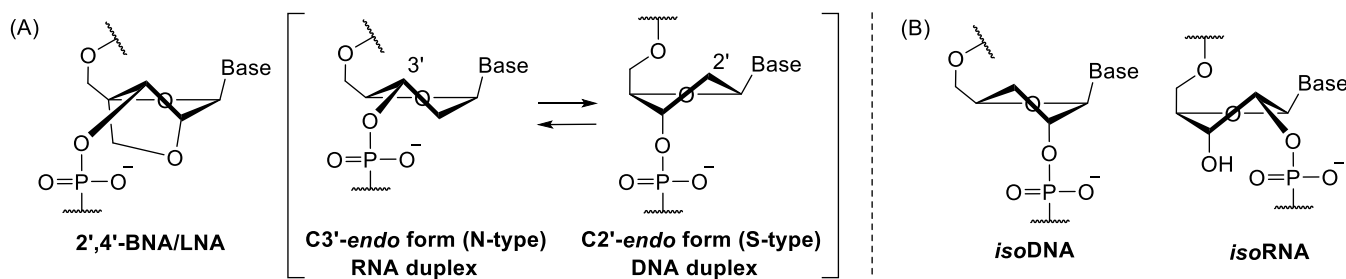
**Abstract** – A novel bridged nucleic acid, 3'-O,4'-C-ethyleneoxy-bridged nucleic acid (3',4'-EoNA), forming 2',5'-linkage with the flanking nucleotides in oligonucleotides was designed. The 3',4'-EoNA is expected to improve the biophysical properties of the oligonucleotides (*e.g.*, binding affinity with complementary single-stranded oligonucleotides and resistance against nuclease digestion) because of the presence of the 6'-oxygen atom. In this study, the synthesis of the 5-methyluridine monomer of 3',4'-EoNA was achieved via Lewis acid-mediated C4'-iodoethoxylation followed by intramolecular 1,4-dioxane ring formation. Here, we describe, in detail, the results of the study.

## INTRODUCTION

In the past few decades, numerous structurally constrained nucleosides have been developed and used to improve the properties of oligonucleotides, such as the hybridization ability with complementary single-stranded oligonucleotides.<sup>1</sup> In particular, oligonucleotides modified by nucleosides with an additional bridge between the 2'- and 4'-positions, like 2',4'-BNA<sup>2</sup>/LNA<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1A), can form a stable duplex with single-stranded RNA (ssRNA) because the sugar conformation is pre-organized to the N-type suitable for forming RNA duplex.

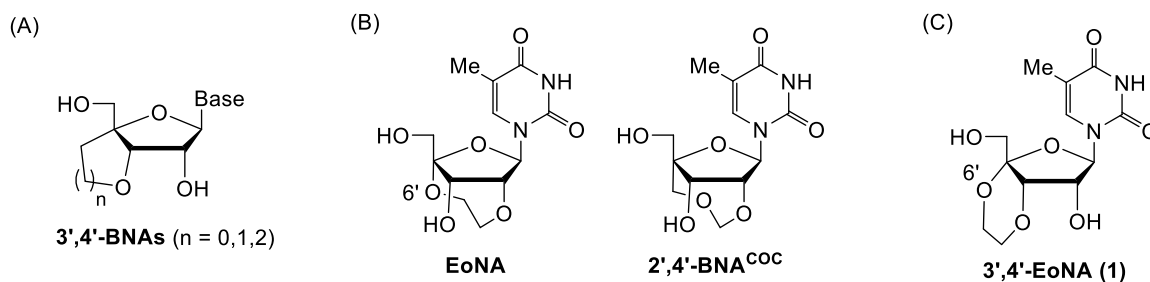
On the other hand, non-genetic 2',5'-linked oligonucleotides (*iso*DNA and *iso*RNA, Figure 1B) have focused on structural features and unique biological activity. 2',5'-Oligoadenylate 5'-triphosphate (2–5-A)

plays an important role in enhancing the ribonuclease L (RNase L)-mediated antiviral activity.<sup>4</sup> To develop an antiviral drug, various chemically modified 2–5-A derivatives have been synthesized.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, *iso*DNA and *iso*RNA have a potential for therapeutic applications (e.g., antisense,<sup>6</sup> siRNA,<sup>7</sup> ribozyme,<sup>8</sup> and aptamer<sup>9</sup>) because of their excellent resistance against enzymatic digestion.<sup>10</sup>



**Figure 1.** (A) Structure of 2',4'-BNA/LNA and equilibrium of sugar conformations of nucleotides and (B) Structures of *iso*DNA and *iso*RNA

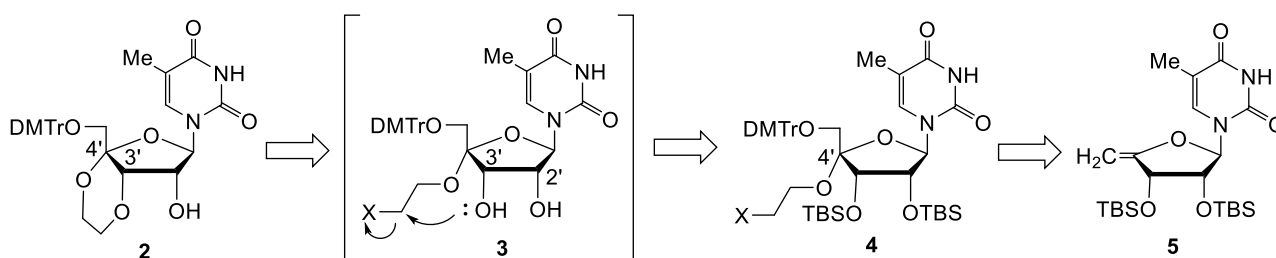
*Iso*DNA and *iso*RNA also have a tendency to selectively and stably bind to ssRNA rather than ssDNA.<sup>10a,11</sup> As bridged analogues of *iso*DNA and *iso*RNA, several 3'-O,4'-C-bridged nucleic acids (3',4'-BNAs) have also been developed (Figure 2A).<sup>5f,12,13</sup> However, the sugar conformation of all 3',4'-BNAs is S-type which is the same as the sugar conformation in the DNA duplex; therefore, their modified oligonucleotides generally possess a lack of binding affinity to ssRNA. On the other hand, we recently developed EoNA<sup>14</sup> (Figure 2B) as 2',4'-bridged nucleic acid with a 6'-oxygen atom and found that the presence of the 6'-oxygen atom significantly enhanced not only the binding affinity to ssRNA targets but also nuclease resistance, when compared with 2',4'-BNA<sup>COC</sup><sup>15</sup> that has the same seven-membered bridge. Under such a background, we were interested in 3',4'-BNA with a 6'-oxygen as a candidate for improving the properties of *iso*DNA- and *iso*RNA-type oligonucleotides. In this study, we designed and synthesized the 3',4'-EoNA monomer **1** with a 1,4-dioxane bridge (Figure 2C).



**Figure 2.** (A) Structures of 3'-O,4'-C-bridged nucleic acids (3',4'-BNAs) and (B) EoNA and 2',4'-BNA<sup>COC</sup> and (C) 3',4'-EoNA

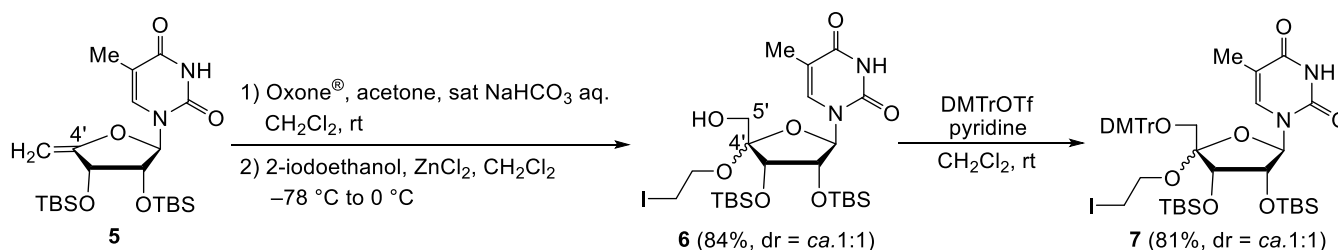
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synthetic route for **2** possessing a 3',4'-bridged structure was planned as shown in Scheme 1. This 1,4-dioxane ring formation was considered to be achieved by regioselective cyclization of diol **3**, which would be obtained by deprotection of **4**. Compound **4** would be prepared by epoxidation and a ring opening reaction from *exo*-olefin **5**<sup>16</sup> which can be synthesized from 5-methyluridine in 3 steps.



**Scheme 1.** Retrosynthetic strategy for 3',4'-EoNA derivative **2**

Initially, to introduce 2-iodoethoxy group at the C4'-position, *exo*-olefin **5** was treated with *m*CPBA in 2-iodoethanol; however, complex mixtures were obtained, and no desired product was detected. It was previously reported by Aso and Suemune et al. that synthesis of 4'-C-nitrobenzoyloxythymidine was achieved by ZnCl<sub>2</sub>-mediated ring opening of epoxide.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, 4'-iodoethoxylation of **5** by epoxide ring-opening using ZnCl<sub>2</sub> was carried out. After epoxidation by *in situ* generated dimethyldioxirane (Scheme 2),<sup>18</sup> treatment with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> and 2-iodoethanol successfully yielded the desired **6** in 84% yield (*ca.* 1:1 inseparable diastereomixture). Then, considering the synthesis of EoNA-modified oligonucleotides, the primary alcohol in **6** was protected to give **7** in 81% yield by a 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl (DMTr) group commonly used as protecting group of 5'-hydroxyl group for automated DNA synthesis based on phosphoramidite chemistry.



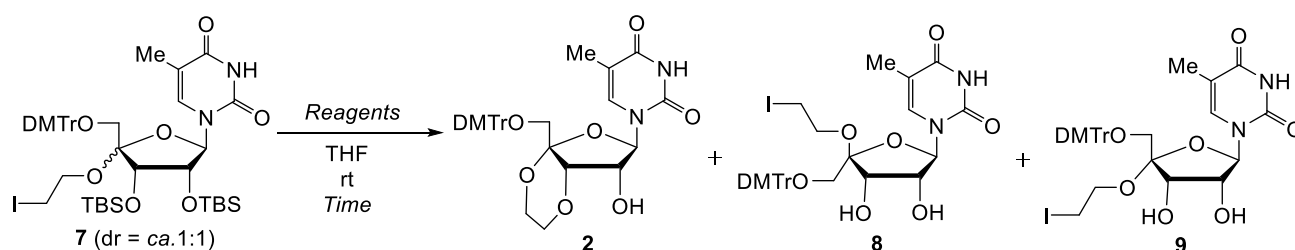
**Scheme 2.** Synthesis of C4'-(2-iodoethoxy)-5-methyluridine derivatives

By treatment with TBAF (2 eq.), compound **7** underwent not only deprotection of two TBS groups but also intramolecular cyclization to give desired **2** with 3',4'-EoNA skeleton (entry 1 of Table 1). The cyclized product **2** and  $\alpha$ -L-lyxofuranose derivative **8** were isolated in 55% and 42% yields, respectively.

Moreover, uncyclized product **9** and the EoNA derivative cyclized between the 2'- and 4'-positions were not observed at all. Reducing the amount of TBAF to 1 eq. yielded 3',4'-EoNA derivative **2** (18%) and compound **8** (14%) together with a recovery of starting material **7** in 45% yield (entry 2). No monosilylated products were detected at all. In general, the acidity of the 2'-hydroxyl group of nucleosides is higher than that of the 3'-hydroxyl group. Thus, the results of entries 1 and 2 suggest that desilylation at the 2'-position causes migration of the remaining 3'-TBS group to 2'-hydroxyl group, cyclization between the resulting 3'-hydroxyl group and 4'-iodoethoxy group, and successive desilylation of the migrated TBS group to give **2**.

Acetic acid was added to suppress the basicity of TBAF (entries 3 and 4). In using a 1:1 mixture of TBAF and acetic acid, the effect of acetic acid was not observed. In contrast, the five-fold amount of acetic acid (10 eq.) yielded a ca. 1:3 inseparable diastereomixture of 2',3'-diol **8** and uncyclized **9** in 28% yield, and no cyclized **2** was obtained, although the desilylation reaction was quite slow. This result indicated that the basicity of the reaction system played a key role to form the intramolecular 1,4-dioxane ring. Using an excess amount of 3HF-triethylamine and HF-pyridine instead of TBAF resulted in no reaction and recovered the starting material **7** (entries 5 and 6). These results demonstrated that the desired **2** was successfully obtained under the conditions shown in entry 1.

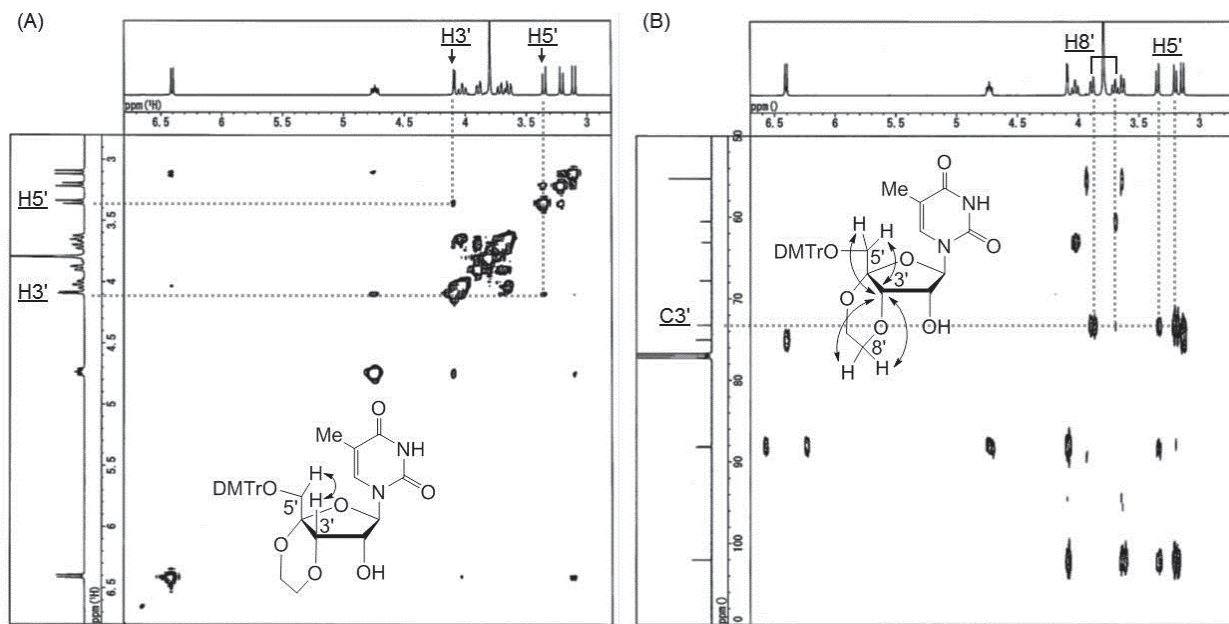
**Table 1.** Reactions of **7** with fluoride reagents



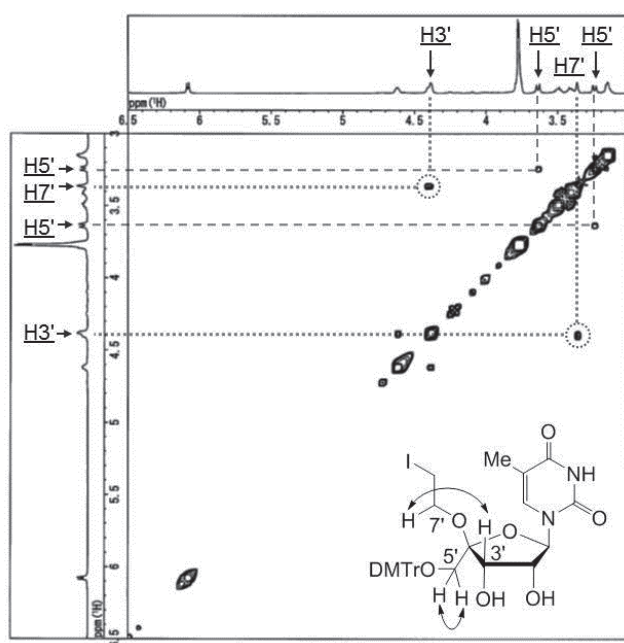
Entry	Reagents	Time	Isolated yields
1	TBAF (2 eq)	3 h	55% ( <b>2</b> ), 42% ( <b>8</b> )
2	TBAF (1 eq)	3 h	18% ( <b>2</b> ), 14% ( <b>8</b> ), 45% (starting material <b>7</b> )
3	TBAF (2 eq), AcOH (2 eq)	3 h	50% ( <b>2</b> ), 21% ( <b>8</b> )
4	TBAF (2 eq), AcOH (10 eq)	7 d	28% ( <b>8:9</b> = ca. 1:3), 47% (starting material <b>7</b> )
5	3HF-Et <sub>3</sub> N (excess)	24 h	No reaction
6	HF-pyridine (excess)	24 h	No reaction

The structure of compound **2** was confirmed by NOESY and HMBC measurements (Figure 3). The stereochemistry of 4'-carbon was determined by NOESY, and the 1,4-dioxane ring was confirmed by

HMBC. On the other hand, the C4'-configuration of **8** was determined by NOESY correlations shown in Figure 4.



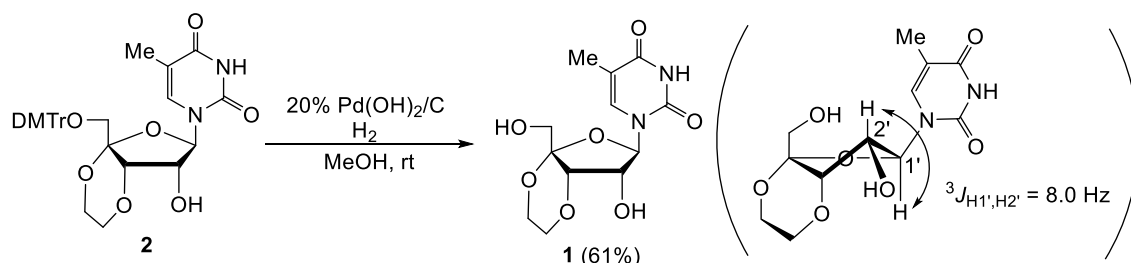
**Figure 3.** (A) NOESY and (B) HMBC spectra of compound **2**



**Figure 4.** NOESY spectrum of compound **8**

Finally, the 5'-DMTr group was removed by hydrogenolysis to give the desired 3',4'-EoNA monomer **1** in 61% yield (Scheme 3). Then, the conformational analysis of **1** was carried out by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. In general, the sugar conformation of nucleoside is easily determined from the coupling constant between ribose

protons in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum.<sup>19</sup> As a result,  $^3J_{\text{H}1',\text{H}2'}$  of 3',4'-EoNA monomer **1** was 8.0 Hz in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , which means that the sugar conformation of **1** was S-type in the same way as other 3',4'-BNA analogues. Moreover, compound **1** having the acetal moiety ( $\text{O}4'-\text{C}4'-\text{O}6'$ ) was confirmed to be stable under acidic conditions like 80% AcOH aqueous solution.



**Scheme 3.** Hydrogenolysis of compound **2**

In summary, we designed 3',4'-EoNA with a 6'-oxygen atom, and the synthesis of the DMTr derivative of 3',4'-EoNA was achieved in 7 steps from 5-methyluridine via Lewis acid-mediated C4'-alkoxylation and intramolecular 1,4-dioxane ring formation. To our knowledge, this 3',4'-EoNA is the first 3',4'-bridged nucleic acid possessing 6'-oxygen atom, although various 3',4'-bridged nucleic acids have been developed to date. In the future, the biophysical properties of 3',4'-EoNA-modified oligonucleotides, prepared by phosphitylation of compound **2** followed by oligonucleotide synthesis, will be explored in detail. We also plan to investigate applications of 3',4'-EoNA to *iso*DNA- and *iso*RNA-based technologies including the novel antiviral 2',5'-oligoadenylate.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**General Methods.** All moisture-sensitive reactions were conducted in well-dried glassware under an Ar atmosphere. Anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and pyridine were used as purchased. All melting points were measured on a Yanagimoto micro melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR-4200 spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 125 MHz. Chemical shift values are expressed in  $\delta$  values (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard, and residual solvents for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta = 77.0$  ppm) and  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  ( $\delta = 49.0$  ppm) for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. Fast atom bombardment mass spectra (FAB-MS) were recorded in positive-ion mode on a JEOL JMS-700 mass spectrometer. For column chromatography, silica gel PSQ 60B was used. The progress of the reaction was monitored by analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on precoated glass plates.

**1-[2-O,3-O-Di-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-4-C-(2-iodoethoxy)- $\beta$ -D-ribofuranosyl]thymine** and  
**1-[2-O,3-O-di-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-4-C-(2-iodoethoxy)- $\alpha$ -L-lyxofuranosyl]thymine (6)**

Acetone (4.0 mL) and sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. (20 mL) were added to a solution of compound **5**<sup>16</sup> (300 mg, 0.640 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6.0 mL). Then, a solution of Oxone<sup>®</sup> (787 mg, 1.28 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was dropwise added to this solution at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The resulting solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (310 mg) was dissolved in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) under Ar atmosphere, then 2-iodoethanol (0.50 mL, 6.40 mmol) and ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (1 M in THF, 0.64 mL, 0.64 mmol) was added to this solution at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. After being quenched with sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. at 0 °C, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite<sup>®</sup>. The filtrate was diluted with EtOAc. The solution was washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (488 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 10 g, *n*-hexane:EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) to give a diastereomixture of **6** as a white powder (353 mg, 84%, 2 steps from **5**).

IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3458, 2991, 1754, 1742, 1704, 1468, 1373, 1245 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -0.06 (s, 1.5H), 0.05 (s, 1.5H), 0.08 (s, 1.5H), 0.10 (s, 1.5H), 0.10 (s, 1.5H), 0.12 (s, 1.5H), 0.16 (s, 1.5H), 0.16 (s, 1.5H), 0.87 (s, 4.5H), 0.90 (s, 4.5H), 0.95 (s, 9H), 1.92 (s, 1.5H), 1.94 (s, 1.5H), 2.42 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 0.5H), 3.19–3.22 (m, 1H), 3.34–3.40 (m, 1.5H), 3.58 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 12.0 Hz, 0.5H), 3.72 (d, *J* = 6.5, 12.0 Hz, 0.5H), 3.80–3.90 (m, 1H), 3.96–4.05 (m, 2H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 0.5H), 4.32 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 0.5H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 5.5 Hz, 0.5H), 4.75 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 0.5H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 0.5H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 0.5H), 7.46 (s, 0.5H), 9.27 (brs, 0.5H), 9.41 (brs, 0.5H). MS (FAB): *m/z* = 695 [MK<sup>+</sup>]. HRMS (FAB): calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>45</sub>IKN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Si<sub>2</sub> [MK<sup>+</sup>], 695.1447; found, 695.1441.

**1-[2-*O*,3-*O*-Di-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-5-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-4-*C*-(2-iodoethoxy)- $\beta$ -D-ribofuranosyl]thymine and 1-[2-*O*,3-*O*-di-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-5-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-4-*C*-(2-iodoethoxy)- $\alpha$ -L-lyxofuranosyl]thymine (**7**)**

Under Ar atmosphere, AgOTf (637 mg, 2.48 mmol) was added to a solution of DMTrCl (840 mg, 2.48 mmol) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. Then, this reaction mixture was dropwised to a solution of compound **6** (1.48 g, 2.25 mmol) and pyridine (0.36 mL, 4.50 mmol) in anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. After being quenched with MeOH and diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, it was then washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (2.12 g) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 60 g, *n*-hexane:EtOAc = 5:1 to 3:1) to give a diastereomixture of **7** as a white powder (1.74 g, 81%).

IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  2983, 1738, 1447, 1372, 1302, 1237 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -0.16 (s, 1.5H), -0.07 (s, 1.5H), -0.06 (s, 1.5H), 0.01 (s, 1.5H), 0.00 (s, 3H), 0.02 (s, 1.5H), 0.02 (s, 1.5H), 0.69 (s, 4.5H), 0.79 (s,

4.5H), 0.87 (s, 4.5H), 0.89 (s, 4.5H), 1.56 (s, 1.5H), 2.05 (s, 1.5H), 2.97 (d,  $J = 11.5$  Hz, 0.5H), 3.08–3.11 (m, 1H), 3.18–3.23 (m, 1H), 3.29–3.31 (m, 0.5H), 3.39 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 0.5H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.80–3.89 (m, 2H), 4.04–4.14 (m, 1.5H), 4.42 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 9.0$  Hz, 0.5H), 4.49 (dd,  $J = 6.0, 9.5$  Hz, 0.5H), 6.18 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 0.5H), 6.23 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.81–7.46 (m, 13H), 7.54 (s, 0.5H), 7.61 (s, 0.5H), 7.98 (brs, 0.5H), 8.03 (brs, 0.5H). MS (FAB):  $m/z = 997$  [MK<sup>+</sup>]. HRMS (FAB): calcd for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>63</sub>IKN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Si<sub>2</sub> [MK<sup>+</sup>], 997.2754; found, 997.2750.

**1-[5-*O*-(4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl)-3-*O*,4-*C*-ethyleneoxy-β-*D*-ribofuranosyl]thymine (2),**

**1-[5-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-4-*C*-(2-iodoethoxy)-α-*L*-lyxofuranosyl]thymine (8),** and

**1-[5-*O*-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-4-*C*-(2-iodoethoxy)-β-*D*-ribofuranosyl]thymine (9)**

Entry 1 of Table 1: TBAF (1 M in THF, 0.42 mL, 0.42 mmol) was added to a solution of compound **7** (200 mg, 0.209 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) at room temperature. After being stirred at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (180 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 15 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH = 50:1 to 20:1) to give compound **2** (69.5 mg, 55%) as a white powder and **8** (64.0 mg, 42%) as a white powder.

Entry 2 of Table 1: TBAF (1 M in THF, 0.21 mL, 0.21 mmol) was added to a solution of compound **7** (200 mg, 0.209 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) at room temperature. After being stirred at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (190 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 15 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH = 50:1 to 20:1) to give compound **2** (22.7 mg, 18%) as a white powder and **8** (21.3 mg, 14%) as a white powder, and to recover the starting material **7** (90.6 mg, 45%).

Entry 3 of Table 1: A mixture of TBAF (1 M in THF, 0.27 mL, 0.27 mmol) and AcOH (16 μL, 0.271 mmol) was added to a solution of compound **7** (130 mg, 0.136 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) at room temperature. After being stirred at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (140 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 15 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH = 50:1 to 20:1) to give compound **2** (41.0 mg, 50%) as a white powder and **8** (21.2 mg, 21%) as a white powder.

Entry 4 of Table 1: A mixture of TBAF (1 M in THF, 0.39 mL, 0.39 mmol) and AcOH (0.11 mL, 1.93 mmol) was added to a solution of compound **7** (185 mg, 0.193 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) at room temperature. After being stirred at room temperature for 7 d, the reaction mixture was then diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (175 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 15 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:MeOH = 50:1 to 20:1) to give a diastereomixture of **8** and **9** (**8:9** = *ca.*1:3, 38.9 mg, 28%) as a white powder and to recover the starting

material **7** (87.1 mg, 47%).

Compound **2**: Mp 114–116 °C. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3481, 2984, 1737, 1449, 1373, 1298, 1234  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.35 (s, 3H), 3.08 (d,  $J = 11.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.35 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.62–3.74 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.89 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.98–4.06 (m, 1H), 4.09 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.74 (ddd,  $J = 4.0, 8.0, 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.39–7.37 (m, 13H), 7.62, (s, 1H), 8.04 (brs, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  11.3, 55.3, 60.6, 63.1, 67.9, 73.4, 75.1, 88.1, 88.2, 102.1, 111.7, 113.4, 127.4, 128.2, 130.19, 130.21, 134.4, 134.6, 135.6, 143.5, 151.2, 158.89, 158.91, 163.5. MS (FAB):  $m/z = 641$  [ $\text{MK}^+$ ]. HRMS (FAB): calcd for  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{34}\text{KN}_2\text{O}_9$  [ $\text{MK}^+$ ], 641.1901; found, 641.1901.

Compound **8**: Mp 102–105 °C. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3195, 2930, 1688, 1610, 1508, 1464, 1251  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.90 (s, 3H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.24 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.36–3.49 (m, 3H), 3.64 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.38 (m, 1H), 4.62 (m, 1H), 6.08 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.84–7.49 (m, 14H), 9.67 (brs, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.9, 12.5, 55.2, 58.7, 62.5, 74.5, 74.6, 86.3, 89.4, 109.8, 111.7, 113.3, 127.0, 127.9, 129.1, 130.0, 135.0, 135.2, 135.4, 144.2, 151.6, 158.6, 163.7. MS (FAB):  $m/z = 769$  [ $\text{MK}^+$ ]. HRMS (FAB): calcd for  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{35}\text{IKN}_2\text{O}_9$  [ $\text{MK}^+$ ], 769.1024; found, 769.1017.

Compound **9**: Mp 124–126 °C. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3405, 3021, 1691, 1607, 1508, 1464, 1250, 1216  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . (major peak of the diastereomixture obtained in entry 4):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.27 (s, 3H), 3.20 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.32–3.35 (m, 2H), 3.62–3.71 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.88 (d,  $J = 11.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.02 (t,  $J = 11.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.73 (m, 1H), 6.42 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.41–7.40 (m, 13H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 8.89 (brs, 1H).

### 1-(3-*O*,4-*C*-Ethyleneoxy- $\beta$ -*D*-ribofuranosyl)thymine (**1**)

20%  $\text{Pd}(\text{OH})_2$  on carbon (48.9 mg) was added to a solution of compound **2** (84.0 mg, 0.139 mmol) in MeOH (5.0 mL) at room temperature. This suspension was stirred at room temperature for 12 h under  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere. After the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite<sup>®</sup>, the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue (92.1 mg) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 5.0 g,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ :MeOH = 30:1 to 10:1) to give compound **1** as a white powder (25.5 mg, 61%).

Mp 92–94 °C. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3315, 2944, 2832, 1683, 1449, 1411, 1219  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  1.89 (s, 3H), 3.51 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.59–3.70 (m, 3H), 3.87 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.00–4.02 (m, 2H), 4.68 (dd,  $J = 4.0, 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  11.0, 60.3, 62.8, 65.6, 73.2, 73.8, 87.7, 102.4, 110.7, 136.9, 151.7, 164.8. MS (FAB):  $m/z = 339$  [ $\text{MK}^+$ ]. HRMS (FAB): calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{KN}_2\text{O}_7$  [ $\text{MK}^+$ ], 339.0595; found, 339.0600.

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