

**SYNTHESIS OF 5-BROMO-2-METHYLTHIO-2',-3' DIDEHYDRO-  
2',3'-DIDEOXYURIDINE AND 5- BROMOISOCYTIDINE  
DERIVATIVES**

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**ABSTRACT**

*5-Bromo-2- methylthiouracil 1 was silylated and condensed with 1, 2, 3, 5-tetra-O-acetyl- B-D-ribofuranose 2 to give the 5-bromo-2-methylthiouridine 3, the reaction with saturated ammonia in methanol afforded two products 4a and 4b depending on the reaction conditions employed. When the uridine 4a was allowed to react with dimethoxytrityl chloride 6 was obtained which was submitted to the reaction with 1, 1- thiocarbonylimidazole where by the cyclic thiocarbonate 7 was obtained. The 2', 3- didehydro 2,3-dideoxyuridine 9 was obtained through the reaction of 7 with triethyl phosphite followed by deprotection of the DMT- group from nucleoside 8 by refluxing it in 80% CH<sub>3</sub> COOH. Also the 5-bromo -isocytidine 10a -c were synthesized from the reaction of 3 with the appropriate amine*

**INTRODUCTION**

The synthesis of nucleoside derivatives has recently received a considerable attention since the discovery that 3'- azido-3' deoxythymidine (AZT) and a number of related 2',3'- dideoxynucleoside derivatives possess high anti-HIV activity[1,2]. The 2', 3',- didehydro-2', 3'- dideoxynucleosides (d4 nucleosides) constitute one such class of nucleoside analogues that has been synthesized in this context, and indeed 2',3'-didehydro- 3'- deoxythymidine (d4T) and 2',3'- didehydro-2',3'-dideoxycytidine

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(d4C) have both been found to be powerful anti-HIV-agents [1].

Methods have been developed for the transformation of both 2',-deoxyribonucleosides [3-13] and ribonucleosides [14-18] into the corresponding d4 nucleosides. In general, these transformations involve the modification only of the sugar moiety of the nucleoside with the aglycone remaining unchanged.

Recently, much more attention have been given to the sulfur modified nucleoside derivatives [14, 15] as well as, the sulfur modified oligonucleotides owing to the stability of the double helical structures with their complementary strand [16]. On the other hand, the 2-alkylthiouracil nucleoside derivatives are also considered as a versatile starting materials for synthesizing the corresponding isocytidine derivative, since, the alkylthio-group is considered as a good leaving group and could be easily substituted with nucleophiles Kanai and Maruyama [18] reported that, the isocytidine derivatives can be synthesized by treating 6,2'- anhydro derivatives with liquid ammonia for about two weeks. Delia and Beranek [19] synthesized the isocytidine derivatives by the reaction of 2,2'-anhydro pyrimidine nucleosides with amine nucleophiles. Also, Hirota *et.al.*[20] investigated the reactivities of 2',5'- dichlorouridines toward various nucleophiles and obtained some isocytosine derivatives by the use of amines as nucleophiles. In this investigation, an easy and convenient route to synthesize the isocytidine derivatives *via* the reactions of amines with 5-bromo 2-methylthiouracil nucleosides 10a-c as well as the 5-bromo 2- methylthio-2',3' didehydro-2',3' dideoxyuridine 9 is reported.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this investigation, a modified method for the synthesis of 5-Bromo -2- methylthiouracil 1 Silylation of 1 with 1,1,1,3,3,3 hexamethyl- disilazane (HMDS) was carried out according to the procedure described by Vorbruggen *et.al.*[22]. Condensation of 1,2,3,5-tetra-*O* - acetyl-B-D- ribofuranose 2 with the silylated base was carried out according to the Vorbruggen conditions [23] in dry acetonitrile, using trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMS triflate) as a catalyst to yield 3. The deprotection of nucleoside 3 using ammonia in methanol at room temperature to gives 4b, whose  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra showed singlet at 3.9 ppm and 59.74 ppm respectively characteristic of a methoxy group. On the other hand, if the deprotection is carried out using ammonia in methanol at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 minutes the methylthio- group survived, also the nucleophilic attack of the methoxy group could be hindered and the 2-methylthio-nucleoside 4a was obtained.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of this product showed singlet at 2.51 ppm and 14.36 ppm respectively characteristic of the methylthio- group.

Treatment of 4a with potassium cyanide afforded 5- cyano- 2-methylthiouridine 5, whose  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ - NMR and the mass spectrum are in accordance with the reported nucleoside [24]. It was of interest to explore the procedure of simultaneous deoxygenation of ribonucleosides *via* cyclic thiocarbonate which was previously applied [25] to uridine. Therefore, the nucleoside 4a was allowed to react with 4,4' dimethoxy trityl chloride in dry pyridine and in presence of catalytic amount of 4- dimethylaminopyridine to give the corresponding 5'-*O* protected nucleoside 6. The reaction of nucleoside

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6 with 1,1'-thiocarbonylimidazole in DMF afforded the cyclic thionocarbonate 7, which upon treatment with triethyl phosphite yielded the 2',3'-unsaturated nucleoside 8. The deprotection of 8 was carried out in 80% acetic acid to furnish the corresponding 2',3'-unsaturated nucleoside 9.

When the nucleoside 3 was allowed to react with primary amines *viz* methylamine, propylamine and butylamine, nucleophilic attack at the methylthio group occurred with the formation of the corresponding isocytidine derivatives 10a-c.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

The NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC 250FT NMR Spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm. FAB mass spectra were recorded on a Varian MAT 311A spectrometer. Silica gel TLC were performed on 60F-254 precoated plates (Merck silica gel (0.040-0.063)). All solvents were distilled.

#### **5-Bromo-2-Methylthio-1-(2,3,5-tri-O-acetyl-D-ribo-furansoyl) Pyrimidin-4(1H)-one 3**

5-Bromo-2-methylthio pyrimidin-4-one (5.30g, 24 mmol) was treated with 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexamethyldisilazane (120 ml) and  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  (180mg) at reflux temperature for 1h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in dry MeCN (60ml). 1,2,3,5-Tetra-O-acetyl-B-ribofuranose 2 (5.13g, 16.2mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was cooled to  $-30^\circ\text{C}$ , TMS triflate (3.9ml, 19.5mmol) in dry MeCN (15ml) was added dropwise with stirring. The mixture was stirred for 30min. at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  and then at

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room temperature for 1h., diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>CL<sub>2</sub> and extracted with ice-cold sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (900ml). The organic phase was separated, washed with cold H<sub>2</sub>O (3x300ml), dried over Na<sub>2</sub> SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to give the crude product which was chromatographed on a silica gel column with CHCL<sub>3</sub> 7.81 g (68%) as a white foam. FABMs (CDCL<sub>3</sub>+ 3-nitrobenzylalcohol) : m/z 480 (M+H<sup>+</sup>) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCL<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.07 (3H,s,Ac), 2.15 (3H,s,Ac) 2.19 (3H,s,Ac), 2.51 (3H,s,SCH<sub>3</sub>) 4.34 (3H,m,4'-H,5'-H), 5.43 (2H,m,2'-H,3'-H), 5.72 (1H,d,J=6.5Hz,1'-H), 8.35 (1H,s,6-H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCL<sub>3</sub>) : 418.36 (SCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.08, 20.33,2.55 (3xAc), 63.03 (C-5'), 69.97 (C-3'), 72.38 (C-2'), 80.01 (C-4'), 90.10 (C-1'), 113.60 (C-5), 144.69 (C-6), 163.48 (C-2), 169.73 (C-4).

**5-Bromo-2- Methylthio-1- (D-ribofuranosyl) Pyrimidin-4 (1H) one 4a.**

Compound 3 (1.05g,2.2mmol) was treated with saturated solution of ammonia in MeOH (20ml) at 0°C. After stirring at room temperature for 1/2h, the solvent was removed in *vacuo* and the residue was chromatographed on a silica column with 8-10% MeOH/CHCL<sub>3</sub> to give 4a. 0.44g (57%) as white foam. FAB Ms (DMSO + 3nitrobenzylalcohol) : m/z 354 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO) δ 2.51 (3H,s,SCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.56 (2H,m,5'-H) 3,88 (1H,m,4'-H), 4.01 (1H,m,3'-H), 4.21 (1H,m,2'-H) 5.55 (1H,d,J=6.2Hz,1'-H), 7.80 (1H,s,6-H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (DMSO) : δ 14.36 (SCH<sub>3</sub>), 61.28 (C-5') 70.41 (C-3') 73.77 (C-2') 85.10 (C-4'), 91.91 (C-1'), 118.22 (C-5), 145.08 (C-6'), 163.92 (C-2'), 169.82 (C-4').

**5- Bromo-2-methoxy-1 (D-ribofuranosyl) pyrimidin-4 ( 1 H) one 4b.**

Compound 3 (1,05g, 2.2 mmol) was treated with saurated

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solution of ammonia in MeOH (20 ml) at 0°C with stirring at room temperature for 3h., the solvent was removed in *vacuo* and the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column with 8-10% MeOH in CHCl<sub>3</sub> to give 4b. 0.51g (71%) as a white foam. FAB Ms (DMSO + 3-nitrobenzylalcohol) : *m/z* 338 (M+ H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO) : δ 3.57 (2H,m, 5'-H), 3.81 (1H, m, 4'-H), 3.90 (3H,s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.00 (1H, m, 3'-H), 4.16 (1H, m, 2'-H), 5.61(1H, d, J= 6.2 Hz, 1'-H), 7.97 (1H,s,6-H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (DMSO) : δ 59.74 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 61.27 (C-5'), 70.39 (C-3'), 73.75 (C-2'), 85.19 (C-4'), 91.21 (C-1'), 118.18 (C-5), 144.91 (C-6), 163.88 (C-2), 169.32 (C-4).

**5-Bromo-1-[5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-D-ribo-furanosyl]-2-methylthiopyrimidin-4 (1H) one 6.**

To a solution of 4a (3.17g, 9mmol) in 45ml dry pyridine, 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride (3.15g, 9.3 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (0.61g, 5mmol) were added, the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with chloroform. The combined organic extracts were dried over (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and chromatographed through a silica gel column with 2-4% MeOH in CHCl<sub>3</sub> to give 3.47g (59%) of a white product. FAB Ms (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + 3-nitrobenzylalcohol) : *m/z* 656 (M+ H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) : δ 2.57 (3H, s, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.39-3.52 (3H, m, 4'- and 5'-H), 3.75(6H, s, 2xOCH<sub>3</sub>) 4.26 (1H, m, 3'-H), 4.44 (1H, m, 2'-H), 4.71 (1H, br. m, OH), 5.86 (1H,d, J=5.28 Hz, 1'-H), 6.88-7.44 (arom., 14H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 15.50 (SCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.12 (2x OCH<sub>3</sub>), 71.52 (C-5'), 74.88 (C-3'), 84.99 (C-2'), 87.08 (C-4'), 91.56 (C-1'), 107.24 (C-5), 113.35, 123.79, 126.90, 127.86, 128.10, 129.89, 135.11, 135.27, 139.30, 144.05, 149.35, (arom.& C-6), 158.51 (C-2),

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164.33 (C-4).

**5-Bromo-1-[5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2',3'-O-(cyclicthio-carbonate)-D-ribofuranosyl] 2-methyl-thio-pyrimidin-4 (1H)one 7.**

To a solution of compound 6 (2.62g, 4mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (100ml), was 1,1-thiocarbonylimidazole (4.05g, 9 mmol) was added, the mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen overnight. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was chromatographed through a silica gel column with 0.05% MeOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> to give 1.86g (67%) of white foam. FAB Ms (DMSO=3-nitrobenzylalcohol) : *m/z* 698 (M + H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) : δ 2.54 (3H, s, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.80 (6H,s,2xOCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.83 (2H,d,J=5.57 Hz, 5-H) 4.55-4.75 (1H,m, 4-H), 5.79 (1H, dd, J=2.35, 7.32 Hz, 3'-H), 6.28 (1H, dd, J= 1.76, 7.32 Hz, 2-H) 6.59 (1H, d, J= 1.76 Hz, 1'-H), 7.31 (arom., 14H).

**5-Bromo-1-[2',3',-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxy-5'-O(dimethoxytrityl)-D-ribofuranosyl] 2-methyl-thio- pyrimidin 4 (1H) one 8.**

A solution of 7 (1.67g, 2.4 mmol) in triethyl-phosphite (30 ml) was heated to gentle reflux in nitrogen atmosphere for 1h. Excess reagent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on a silica gel column using CHCl<sub>3</sub> / MeOH (15/1) to give 0.58 g 39% FAB Ms (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + 3 nitrobenzylalcohol) : *m/z* 622 (M + H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>). δ 2.55 (3H, s, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (2H, d,J= 3.8 Hz, 5'-H), 3.84 (6H,s, 2xOCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.96 (1H,m, 4'-H), 6.22 (1H,dt, J=1.5,5.86hz, 2'-H), 6.52 (1H, dt, J= 1.5,5.86 Hz, 3'-H), 6.95 (1H,m, 1'-H), 7.33 (arom, 14H).

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**5-Bromo-1-[2',3'-didehydro-2'-3'-dideoxy-D-ribofuranosyl]-2-methylthio- pyrimidine 4 (1H) one 9.**

Compound 8 (0.49, 0.8 mmol) was deprotected in 80% acetic acid (10ml) by heating at 80°C for 10min . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH (20 : 1) to obtain 145 mg (57%) of 9 FAB MS (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + nitrobenzylalcohol) m/z 320 (M + H<sup>+</sup>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) : δ 2.45 (3H,s, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.69 (2H, dd, J=3.52, 4.98Hz, 5'-H), 4.75 (1H, m, 4' - H), 4.95 (1H, t, J=4.98 Hz, 5'-OH), 5.85 (1'H, br d, J=6.2 Hz, 2'-H) 6.40 (1H, br, d, J= 6.2 Hz, 3'-H), 6.80 (1H, m, 1'-H) 7.72 (1H, s, 6-H).

**Preparation of 5- Bromoisocytidines 10a-c.**

A solution of 3 (0.57g, 1.2 mmol) in an excess of the appropriate amine (10ml) was stirred overnight. The solvent was removed in *vacuo* and the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column using 6-8% MeOH in CHCl<sub>3</sub> to remove the impurities and then the product obtained was crysallised from MeOH to give 10a- c in 42-66% yield .

**5- Bromo-N<sup>2</sup>- methylisocytidine 10a**

209 mg (52%). FAB Ms (DMSO + 3nitro-benzyl-alcohol) : m/z, 337 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO) : δ 2.73 (3H, d, J= 4.1 Hz, NHCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.63 (2H,br s, 5'-H), 3.96 (1H, m, 4'-H), 3.98 (1H, m, 3'-H) 4.17 (1H, t, J=5.8Hz, 2'-H), 5.25 (1H,br s, OH), 5.43 (1H, d, J= 6.6Hz, 1'-H), 5.49 (2H, br, s, 2 xOH) 7.26 (1H, q, J=4.1 Hz, NH), 8.16 (1H, s, 6-H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (DMSO) : δ 28.24 (NH-CH<sub>3</sub>), 60.55 (C-5'). 69.88



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(C-3'), 72.41 (C-2'), 86.06 (C-4'), 91.98 (C-1') 102.07 (C-5), 139.29 (C-6), 152.64 (C-2), 163.92 (C-4).

**5-Bromo-N<sup>2</sup>- propylisocytidine 10 b**

183 mg (42%); FAB Ms (DMSO\_ 3 nitrobenzylalcohol) : m/z 365 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H.NMR (DMSO) : δ 0.85 (3H, t, J=7.3Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.55 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.49 (2H, q, J=1.7 Hz, NHCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.62 (2H, br s, 5'-H), 3.97 (1H, m, 4'-H), 4.01 (1H, m, 3'-H), 5.28 (1H, br s, OH) 5.46 (1H, d, J= 6.8 Hz, 1'-H), 5.51 (2H, br s 2xOH) 7.26 (1H, br NH), 8.14 (1H, s, 6-H) <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (DMSO) : δ 11.20 (CH<sub>3</sub>) 21.48 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.71 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 60.60 (C-5'), 69.92 (C-3'), 72.35 (C-2'), 86.20 (C-4'), 92.34 (C-1'), 102.05 (C-5), 139.57 (C-6), 152.12 (C-2), 163.89 (C-4).

**5- Bromo- N<sup>2</sup>- butylisocytidine 10c**

299 mg (66%) FAB Ms (DMSO + 3- nitrobenzylalcohol) : m/z 379 (M+ H<sup>+</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H.NMR (DMSO) δ 0.88 (3H, t, J=7. 1Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.28 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.47 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.50 (2H, q, j=1.5 Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.24 (2H, m, 5'-H), 3.96 (1H, m, 4'-H), 3.99 (1H, m, 3'-H) 4.19 (1H, t, j= 6.9 Hz, 2'-H), 5.28 (1H, br, s, OH), 5.45 (1H, d, J= 6.7 Hz, 1'-H), 5.51 (2H, br, s, 2xOH), 7.22 (1H, br, s, NH), 8.14 (1H, s, 6-H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR δ 13.69 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.48 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.42 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.74 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 60.61 (C-5'), 69.94 (C-3'), 72.40 (C-2') 86.23 (C-4'), 92.36 (C-1'), 102.03 (C-5), 139.59 (C-6), 152.13 (C-2), 163.95 (C-4).

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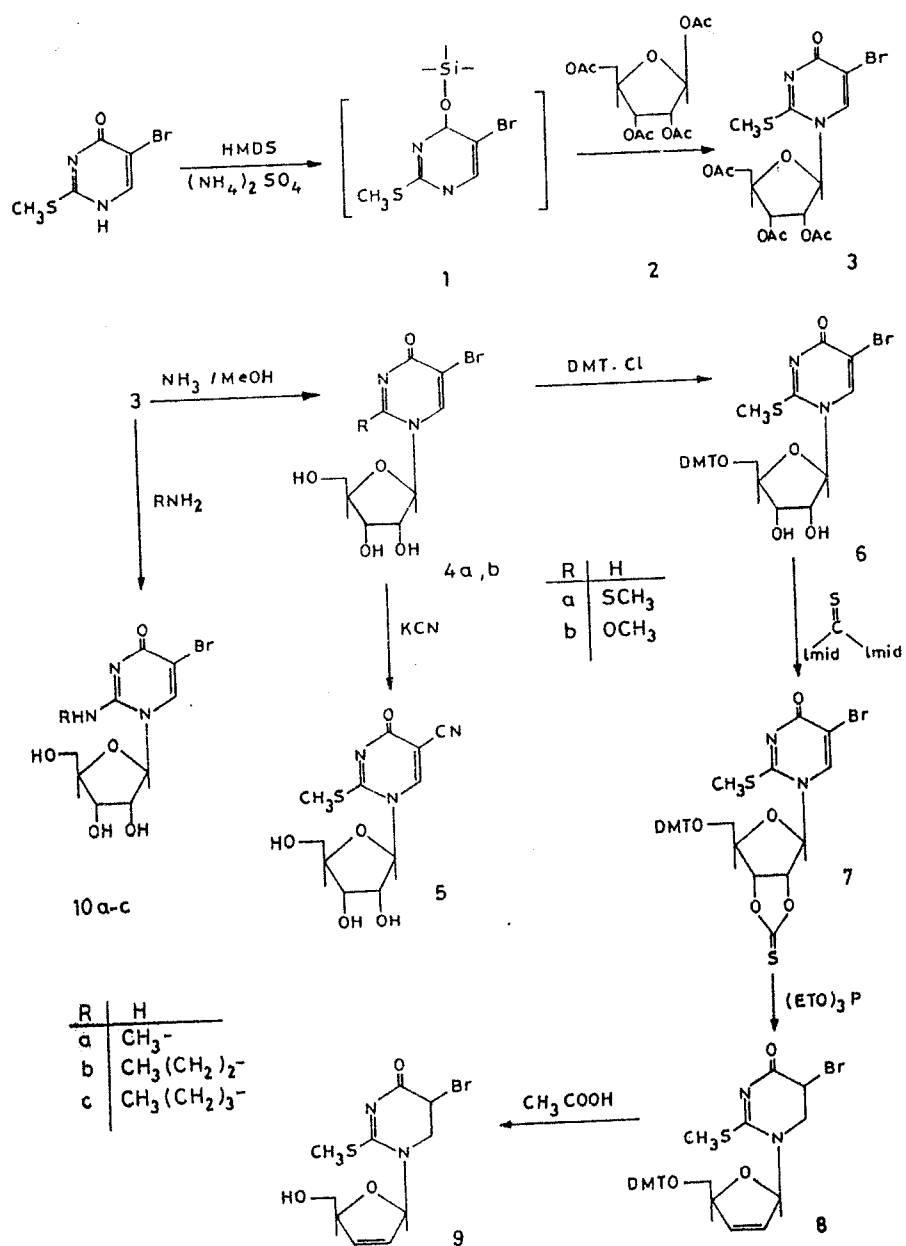
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### ملخص عربي

تخليق ٥ - برومو - ٢ - ميثيل ثيو ٢'، ٣' - داي ديهيدرو - ٢'، ٣' داي ديوكسي يوريدين وكذلك مشتقات ٥ - بروم ايزوسيتدين

أجرى لمركب ٥ - برومو - ٢ - ميثيل ثيووراسيل (١) سبله ثم وتكاثف مع الريبو فيورانوز (٢) ليعطى ٥-برومو - ٢ - ميثيل ثيويوريدين (٣). وقد درست فاعلية مجموعة الميثيل ثيو للاستبدال عن طريق تفاعل (٢) مع محلول الامونيا في الميثانول ليعطى نيكلوزيد (٤) تحت ظروف تفاعل تختلف عن ظروف التفاعل للحصول على (٤) والذي بقيت مجموعة الميثيل ثيو به. وعند تفاعل نيكلوزيد (٤) مع ثنائي الميثوكسي ترتيل كلوريد يعطى النيكلوزيد (٦) والذي يتفاعل مع ١.١ ثيوكربونيل الاميدازول مكونا الثيوكربونات الحلقى (٧). كما أمكن الحصول على المركب ٢'، ٣' داي ديهيدرو ٢'، ٣' داي ديوكسي يوريدين (٩) ثم يتفاعل (٧) ثم مع ثلاثي إيثيل الفوسفيت متبوعا بالتفاعل مع حمض الخليك ٨٠٪ مع التسخين. كما أجرى أيضا تفاعل للمركب (٢) مع بعض الأمينات الأولية حيث حدث استبدال نيكلونيلي لمجموعة الثيوميثيل مع تكوين مشتقات ٥ - برومو ايزوسيتدين المناظرة (١٠-ج).