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9-Deazaadenosine and Its 5'-α-D-Glucopyranoside Isolated from the Cyanobacterium Anabaena affinis Strain VS-1

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Numerous nucleoside analogs have been synthesized and isolated from natural sources, and their biological activities have also been extensively investigated. While it would be almost impossible to isolate a new type of base per se since synthetic efforts have effectively provided examples of most variations on the base unit,² it would be important to isolate as a natural product a base unit which had previously been obtained only by chemical synthesis (nature mimics man!).

In the course of our systematic screening for antiviral, antifungal, antibacterial, and cytotoxic compounds from cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), we found that a MeOH extract of *Anabaena affinis* strain VS-1 showed strong cytotoxicity to L1210 murine leukemia cells, and we assign here structures to two compounds, 1 and 2, responsible for the cytotoxicity of the organism. This is the first report of the isolation and characterization of pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine derivatives as biosynthetic products.³

A. affinis strain VS-1 was isolated from a cyanobacterial water-bloom collected from Star Lake, Norwich, VT⁴ and cultivated in Z-8 mineral medium according to the conditions reported by Carmichael.⁵ The lyophilized cells were extracted with MeOH- $\rm H_2O$ (4:1), and the aqueous residue obtained after evaporation of the MeOH was passed through a CHP-20P column. The column was rinsed with $\rm H_2O$, and the active components were eluted with 15% EtOH- $\rm H_2O$ and evaporated. Two active components, 1 (0.25% of dried cell weight) and 2 (0.028%), were isolated by bioassay-guided separation of the residue using HPLC with an ODS column.⁶

Compound 1, $[\alpha]^{28}_D$ +21.9° (c 0.051, H₂O), showed a molecular ion peak at m/z 429.1627 (C₁₇H₂₄N₄O₉, M + H, Δ -0.5 mDa) in the high-resolution (HR) FAB mass spectrum obtained with dithiothreitol/dithioerythritol (magic bullet)⁷ as matrix. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 1 contained two aromatic proton signals and 13 one-proton signals ascribable to a pentose and a hexose.⁸

Scheme I

1:
$$R = HO_{3^{\circ}}^{6^{\circ}} O \alpha$$
HO 3 OH w 2267

Scheme II

3: R = H

4: R = CN

Six heteroatom-substituted aromatic 13 C signals were detected in the 13 C NMR spectrum of 1, together with 11 signals due to the sugar units. These data and the UV spectrum of 1 [λ_{max} (H₂O) 287 (sh), 276, 268, and 229 nm; (0.01 N HCl) 272 and 235 nm] suggested that 1 is a nucleoside with two sugar units.

Collisionally induced tandem FABMS (FABMS/CID/MS) of 1 showed three major fragment ion peaks at m/z 177, 163, and 147 (Scheme I), together with a strong fragment ion peak at m/z 267 generated by the loss of the hexose unit, but a prominent peak due to (base + H_2)⁺ was not detected, suggesting a C-nucleoside. ¹⁰ This was confirmed by the chemical shifts of the anomeric center (δ_H , 4.87; δ_C , 78.1), which were observed at relatively high fields in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 1.

Subtraction of the sum of the two sugar units from the molecular formula of 1 gave $C_6H_5N_4$ (133 Da) as the base unit. One-bond $^1H^{-13}C$ coupling constants of ^{13}C signals at δ 128.0 ($^1J_{C,H}=190$ Hz) and 149.9 ($^1J_{C,H}=207$ Hz) were characteristic

gle-frequency decoupling experiments. (9) ¹³C NMR data (125 MHz, 26 °C) for 1 in DMSO- d_6 (39.5 ppm): δ 150.8 (s), 149.9 (d, ¹ $J_{C,H}$ = 207 Hz, C-2), 144.4 (s), 128.0 (d, ¹ $J_{C,H}$ = 190 Hz, C-6), 114.2 (s), 114.1 (s), 98.7 (d, C-1"), 81.8 (d, C-4"), 78.1 (d, C-1"), 74.9 (d, C-2"), 73.4 (d, C-3"), 72.8 (d, C-5"), 72.3 (d, C-2"), 70.9 (d, C-3"), 70.1 (d, C-4"), 66.9 (t, C-5"), 61.0 (t, C-6"); assigned by ¹ $H^{-13}C$ COSY experiment.

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⁽⁶⁾ HPLC retention times (min, Nucleosil 7 C_{18} , 10 mm × 250 mm, 2 mL/min) for 1 and 2, respectively: MeOH-0.5% AcOH (1:9), 11.1 and 13.1; MeOH-0.05% TFA (1:9), 17.8 and 21.3; MeCN-0.1% NH₄OAc (1:20), 15.4 and 20.2. TLC (R_f value, silica gel, 0.25-mm thick) for 1 and 2, respectively: CHCl₃-MeOH-H₂O (26:15:3), 0.18 and 0.63; EtOAc-2-PrOH-H₂O (4:3:2), 0.24 and 0.50; 1-BuOH-AcOH-H₂O (4:1:1), 0.20 and 0.40.

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^{(8) &}lt;sup>1</sup>H NMR data (500 MHz, 26 °C) for 1 in DMSO- d_6 (2.49 ppm): δ 8.05 (s, H-2), 7.72 (d, J=1.0 Hz, H-6), 4.87 (d, J=5.0 Hz, H-1'), 4.74 (d, J=3.5 Hz, H-1"), 4.25 (dd, J=5.0, 5.0 Hz, H-2'), 4.06 (dd, J=5.0, 4.5 Hz, H-3'), 3.90 (ddd, J=4.5, 3.5, 3.0 Hz, H-4'), 3.73 (dd, J=11.0, 3.5 Hz, H-5'), 3.59 (dd, J=11.5, 5.5 Hz, H-5'), 3.59 (dd, J=11.5, 3.0 Hz, H-5'), 3.48 (dd, J=9.5, 9.0 Hz, H-3"), 3.43 (dd, J=11.5, 5.5 Hz, H-6"), 3.39 (m, J=9.0, 5.5, 2.0 Hz, H-5"), 3.23 (dd, J=9.5, 3.5 Hz, H-2"), 3.08 (dd, J=9.0, 9.0 Hz, H-4"), all signals for 1 H; assigned by ¹H-¹H COSY and single-frequency decompling experiments

for carbons attached to, respectively, one and two nitrogen atoms.¹¹ The ${}^{1}H$ signal (δ_{H} 7.72) for the hydrogen attached to the former carbon ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 128.0) showed long-range coupling ($J=1.0~{\rm Hz}$) to an anomeric proton (δ_H 4.89, H-1'). These data suggested that the base unit is either pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine (i.e., 7-deazaadenine) or pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine (i.e., 9-deazaadenine). The ¹³C signals due to the aromatic carbons of 1 resemble those reported for 9-deazaadenine derivatives¹² rather than 7-deazaadenine derivatives, 13 although no pyrrolo [3,2-d] pyrimidine derivative has been reported from natural sources.3 UV spectra of 1, especially the shifts of absorption maxima in acidic solution, were also more like those of 9-deazaadenine14 than those of tubercidin (7-deazaadenosine).¹⁵ Accordingly, the base unit in 1 is most likely 9-deazaadenine.

The ¹³C signals assigned to the hexose unit of 1 closely resembled those of methyl α -D-glucopyranoside, ¹⁶ suggesting that 1 is the α -D-glucopyranoside of 9-deazaadenosine. 5'- α -D-Glucopyranosides of tubercidin and toyocamycin (3 and 4, respectively, Scheme II) have been isolated from cyanobacteria.¹⁷ ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for the sugar units of 1 were very similar to those for 3 and 4, except for the signals due to the C-1' position. Moreover, enzymatic deglycosidation of 1 with α -D-glucosidase gave D-glucose and 2, which was isolated as the minor component (11% of 1) from the same cyanobacterium.

Compound 2, $[\alpha]^{28}$ _D -28.4° (c 0.016, H₂O), showed a molecular ion peak at m/z 267.1090 (C₁₁H₁₅N₄O₄, M + H, Δ +0.3 mDa) by HRFABMS. FABMS/CID/MS of 2 gave the same fragment ion peaks at m/z 177, 163, and 147 observed for 1 (Scheme I). The ¹H NMR spectrum of 2 showed the signals ascribable to a ribose unit and two aromatic proton signals. 18

From the results above, the structure of 2 can be assigned as 9-deazaadenosine, which has been synthesized by Lim and Klein as a cytotoxic C-nucleoside isostere of adenosine. 19 The direct comparison of 2 with a synthetic sample of 9-deazaadenosine²⁰ by HPLC, TLC, and UV spectra confirmed that 2 was identical to synthetic 9-deazaadenosine.6 1H NMR data for natural 2 hydrochloride were also identical with those for synthetic 2 hydrochloride.21

Consequently, the structure of 1 was assigned as the 9-deazaadenosine 5'- α -D-glucopyranoside, as shown in Scheme I. Compounds 1 and 2 are pyrrolo[3,2-d] pyrimidine derivatives which have not been reported previously as biosynthetic products,³ i.e., from natural sources. Their biosynthesis will be of considerable interest.

The IC₅₀s of 1 and 2 vs L1210 murine leukemia cells were 0.01 and 0.002 µg/mL, respectively. These compounds also showed

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lethal toxicity to the aquatic invertebrate Ceriodaphnia dubia; the LC₅₀s for acute (48 h) and chronic (7 day) toxicities were, respectively, 0.5 and 0.3 μ g/mL for 1 and 0.3 and 0.1 μ g/mL for

Acknowledgment. This study was supported by a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (AI 04769, to KLR) and a subcontract from the same grant to W. W.C. We thank Dr. Robert S. Klein of Montesiore Medical Center for the synthetic sample of 9-deazaadenosine hydrochloride and for useful information and Dr. John Gilbert of Dartmouth College for the culture of A. affinis strain VS-1.

Supplementary Material Available: 1H NMR, FABMS/ CID/MS, and UV spectra of 1 and 2; ¹³C NMR, ¹H-¹H COSY, ¹H-¹³C COSY spectra of 1; and ¹H NMR spectra of natural and synthetic 2 hydrochloride (12 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

$[C_6H_6 \text{ iso-}C_3H_7^+]$ and $[C_6H_7^+ C_3H_6]$ Ion-Molecule Complexes: Theoretical Calculations

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While arenium ions are known to be intermediates in electrophilic aromatic substitution reactions, the existence of π -complexes between an aromatic group and a cation remains elusive. In the gas phase the intermediacy of π -complexes has often been postulated in the unimolecular fragmentation of aromatic cations, 2-8 but there is as yet no irrefutable evidence for their existence. The existence of ion-molecule complexes [C₆H₇⁺ alkene] has been proposed from experimental results.8 In this work we have, for the first time, calculated the energy and structure of π -complexes and ion-molecule complexes involving the benzenium ion and an alkene. This kind of system is a good example of the use of molecular orbital calculations in order to calculate the energy and to study the structure of ion-neutral complexes. This has been recently reviewed.9

We have chosen to focus on one model: the complex intermediates presumed to be involved in the unimolecular reaction of metastable¹⁰ protonated isopropylbenzene. It has been pre-

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^{(18) &}lt;sup>1</sup>H NMR data (500 MHz, 18 °C) for **2** in DMSO- d_6 (2.49 ppm): δ 11.95 (1 H, br s, NH), 8.17 (1 H, s, H-2), 7.72 (2 H, br s, NH₂), 7.58 (1 H, s, H-6), 4.85 (1 H, d, J = 3.1 Hz, OH), 4.77 (1 H, d, J = 7.4 Hz, H-1'), 4.22 (1 H, dd, J = 7.4, 5.1 Hz, H-2'), 4.14 (1 H, d, J = 3.9 Hz, OH), 4.00 (1 H, dd, J = 5.1, 2.8 Hz, H-3'), 3.86 (1 H, ddd, J = 3.1, 3.1, 2.8 Hz, H-4'), 3.60 (1 H, dd, J = 12.0, 3.1 Hz, H-5'); 3.51 (1 H, dd, J = 12.0, 3.1 Hz, H-5');

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by Dr. Robert S. Klein, Montefiore Medical Center.

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