Supplementary Information

General methods:

Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. Flash column chromatography was performed with silica gel (230-400 mesh). TLC was performed on pre-coated silica plates and visualized using UV light and by applying a solution of 10% ammonium molybdate in 2M H₂SO₄ followed by heating. Moisture sensitive reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. CH₃CN was distilled over CaH₂. Methanol was distilled over magnesium and iodine. THF was distilled over sodium/benzophenone. All NMR spectra were acquired on Bruker AV-400 or Bruker AV-600 spectrometers at 25 °C. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) relative to tetramethylsilane (¹H-NMR) or CDCl₃ (¹³C-NMR). NMR spectra of thioamide-containing compounds were difficult to interpret due to the presence of multiple stable rotamers.

Synthesis:

3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-N-acetamido-D-glucal (6):



A solution of the acetimide¹ (224 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (3 mL, 5 mL/mmol), was treated with TEA (0.4 mL, 3.0 mmol) and morpholine (0.16 mL, 1.8 mmol) under nitrogen and the resulting mixture was stirred at r.t. for 28 h, after which the solvent was evaporated. The crude material was purified by silica column chromatography (PE/EA 4:6 to 1:9), affording the title compound (174 mg, 88%) as a white foam.

¹**H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 1.97 (3H, s, OAc), 2.05 (6H, s, 2x OAc), 2.06 (3H, s, NHAc), 4.18 (1H, dd, *J* = 2.4, 10.7 Hz, H-6a), 4.28-4.38 (2H, m, H-5, 6b), 5.16 (1H, dd, *J* = 4.1, 4.6 Hz, H-4), 5.28 (1H, d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, H-3), 6.94 (1H, br s, H-NHAc), 7.33 (1H, s, H-1). ¹³**C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 20.6 (OAc), 20.7 (OAc), 20.8 (OAc), 23.6 (NHAc), 61.0 (CH₂, C-6), 67.0 (CH, C-4), 67.2 (CH, C-3), 73.1 (CH, C-5), 111.1 (C, C-2), 140.2 (CH, C-1), 168.8 (CO, OAc), 169.5 (CO, OAc), 170.4 (CO, OAc), 171.5 (CO, NHAc).

LRMS (pos): m/z 352.3 [M+Na]⁺. HRMS: calcd for $C_{14}H_{19}NO_8Na$: 352.1008; found: 352.1013.

3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-N-thioacetamido-D-glucal (7):



¹ N. Pravić, I. Franjic-Mihalic, B. Danilov, *Carbohydr. Res.* **1975**, *45*, 302 – 306.

A solution of the *N*-acetyl-glycal (120 mg, 0.365 mmol) in dry THF (5.5 mL, 15 mL/mmol) was treated with Lawesson's reagent (118 mg, 0.292 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred under nitrogen for 22 h, after which the solvent was evaporated. Flash column chromatography of the crude material (Tol/EA 7:3 to 1:1) afforded the desired thio-amide (60 mg, 48%) as a colorless oil.

¹H-NMR/¹³C-NMR: Mixture of conformers/rotamers in a 2:1 ratio. Selected ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) signals for major compound: 2.54 (3H, s, NH(C=S)CH₃), 7.60 (1H, s, H-1), 8.36 (1H, br.s, H-NH). Selected ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) signals for major compound: 35.1 (CH₃, NH(C=S)CH₃), 113.2 (C, C-2), 144.6 (CH, C-1), 201.6 (C, C=S).

LRMS (pos): m/z 368.3 [M+Na]⁺. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₄H₁₉NO₇SNa: 368.0780; found: 368.0776.

2-N-thioacetamido-D-glucal (5):



A solution of the thioamide **7** (26 mg, 0.075 mmol) in dry MeOH (2.0 mL, 25 mL/mmol) was cooled down with an ice bath and subsequently treated with a catalytic amount of sodium; the resulting mixture was stirred under nitrogen for 2 h, after which a scoop of silica was added and the solvent evaporated. Flash column chromatography of the crude material (DCM/MeOH 5% to 10%) afforded the deprotected product **5** as a colorless oil that was redissolved in deionized water and freeze-dried overnight to afford a pale yellow foam (10 mg, 61%).

¹H-NMR (MeOD, 400 MHz): 2.54 (3H, s, NH(S=C)CH₃), 3.73 (1H, dd, J = 6.5, 8.8Hz, H-4), 3.85 (1H, d, J = 5.6Hz, H-6a), 3.86 (1H, d, J = 3.3, H-6b), 3.92 (1H, m, H-5), 4.57 (1H, d, J = 6.5Hz, H-3), 6.93 (1H, s, H-1).
¹³C-NMR (MeOD, 100 MHz): 33.8 (CH₃, NH(C=S)CH₃), 62.1 (CH₂, C-6), 70.1 (CH, C-3), 70.6 (CH, C-4), 81.1 (CH, C-5), 119.2 (C, C-2), 144.0 (CH, C-1), 203.8 (C, C=S).

LRMS (pos): m/z 242.4 [M+Na]⁺. HRMS: calcd for C₈H₁₃NO₄SNa: 242.0463; found: 242.0464.

Acetyl Chitobial (8):



To a suspension of acetyl chitobiose (1 g, 1.48 mmol) in acetic anhydride (10 mL, 6.5 mL/mmol) acetic acid (aprox 1.5 mL) was added dropwise until the solution was clear and then cooled with an ice bath. Hydrogen chloride gas was bubbled gently through this solution for 15 min and the resulting mixture

was stirred at r.t. for 5 days, after which the solvents were evaporated. The resulting crude material was extracted with ethyl acetate (twice) and washed with ice-cold water, then with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and brine. The combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under vacuum to yield 620 mg (64%) of crude peracetylated chitobiosyl chloride. This material was used in the next step without further purification.

A solution of the crude chloride (620 mg, 0.95 mmol) in isopropenyl acetate (12 mL, 12 mL/mmol) was treated with *p*-toluensulfonic acid hydrate (1.8 mg, 0.01 mmol) and the resulting mixture was refluxed under inert atmosphere for 18 h, after which the solvent was evaporated. Silica column chromatography (PE/EA 50% to 100%) afforded the desired peracetylated glycal (**8**) (280 mg, 42%) as a colorless oil.

¹**H-NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 1.97 (3H, s, OAc), 2.00 (6H, s, 2x OAc), 2.06 (3H, s, OAc), 2.10 (3H, s, OAc), 2.32 (12H, s, 2x NAc₂), 3.71 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 10.3 Hz, H-2'), 3.75-3.81 (1H, m, H-5'), 4.03-4.09 (2H, m, H-4, 6a), 4.18-4.38 (4H, m, H-5, 6b, 6'a, 6'b), 5.07 (1H, t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, H-4'), 5.54 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, H-1'), 5.59 (1H, d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, H-3), 5.76 (1H, t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, H-3'), 6.50 (1H, s, H-1). ¹³**C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 20.4 (OAc), 20.54 (OAc), 20.58 (OAc), 20.60 (OAc), 20.7 (OAc), 24.9 (NAc₂), 27.5 (NAc₂), 60.9, 61.6, 62.0, 67.3, 68.9, 70.0, 71.6, 73.1, 74.6, 98.4 (CH, C-1'), 112.8 (C, C-2), 147.6 (CH, C-1), 169.55, 169.57, 169.62, 170.2, 170.5, 174.0 (CO, NAc₂), 175.1 (CO, NAc₂).

LRMS (pos): m/z 723.4 [M+Na]⁺. **HRMS**: calcd for C₃₀H₄₀N₂O₁₇Na: 723.2225; found: 723.2241.

Chitobial (9):



A solution of the acetylated chitobial (138 mg, 0.197 mmol) in dry MeOH (5.0 mL, 25 mL/mmol) was cooled down with an ice bath and subsequently treated with a catalytic amount of sodium; the resulting mixture was stirred under nitrogen for 2 h, after which a scoop of silica was added and the solvent evaporated. Flash column chromatography of the crude material (EA/MeOH/H₂O 9:2:1) afforded the deprotected product **9** as a colorless oil that was redissolved in deionized water and freeze-dried overnight to afford a pale yellow foam (62 mg, 78%).

¹**H-NMR** (MeOD, 400 MHz): 1.90 (6H, brs, 2x NHAc), 3.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.4, 9.6 Hz, H-4'), 3.37 (1H, ddd, *J* = 2.0, 7.2, 9.6 Hz, H-5'), 3.47 (1H, t, *J* = 9.4 Hz, H-3'), 3.63 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.2, 11.6 Hz, H-6'a), 3.71 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 9.9 Hz, H-2'), 3.72-3.88 (4H, m, H-4, 5, 6a, 6b), 3.94 (1H, dd, *J* = 2.0, 11.6 Hz, H-6'b), 4.36 (1H, d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, H-3), 4.58 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, H-1'), 6.95 (1H, s, H-1). ¹³**C-NMR** (MeOD, 100 MHz): 23.0 (NHAc), 23.1 (NHAc), 57.5 (CH, C-2'), 61.4 (CH₂, C-6), 62.9 (CH₂, C-6'), 69.9 (CH, C-3), 72.4 (CH, C-4'), 76.0 (CH, C-3'), 78.2 (CH, C-5'), 78.6 (CH, C-4/5), 79.9 (CH, C-5/4), 103.2 (CH, C-1'), 116.0 (C, C-2), 140.6 (CH, C-1), 172.8 (CO, NHAc), 173.9 (CO, NHAc).

LRMS (pos): m/z 429.3 [M+Na]⁺. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₆H₂₆N₂O₁₀Na: 429.1485; found: 429.1489.

GalNAc-chitobial (10):



Chitobial (9) (11 mg, 0.027 mmol) and GalNAc-oxazoline² (25 mg, 0.123 mmol) were dissolved in 0.8 mL buffer (25mM sodium phosphate, 25mM sodium citrate, 100mM sodium chloride, pH6.5) and subsequently treated with SpHexD313A (0.2 mL, 0.9 mg/mL). The resulting mixture was incubated at 37 °C overnight. Flash column chromatography of the crude material (EA/MeOH/H₂O 15:2:1 to 5:2:1) followed by C18 size-exclusion chromatography afforded the desired product (10) as a colorless oil, along with 7.0 mg of recovered starting material. The trisaccharide was redissolved in deionized water and freeze-dried overnight to afford a pale yellow foam (3.7 mg, 22%, 62% brsm).

¹**H-NMR** (D₂O, 600 MHz): 2.06 (3H, s, NHAc), 2.07 (3H, s, NHAc), 2.08 (3H, s, NHAc), 3.58 (1H, ddd, J = 2.0, 5.8, 9.7 Hz), 3.66 (1H, dd, J = 8.2, 9.6 Hz), 3.68 (1H, dd, J = 3.7, 6.3 Hz), 3.72-3.84 (8H, m), 3.87 (1H, dd, J = 2.0, 12.0 Hz), 3.91-3.95 (2H, m), 3.96 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 4.08 (1H, ddd, J = 4.1, 4.1, 7.8 Hz), 4.40 (1H, d, J = 5.6 Hz), 4.53 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 4.69 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 6.76 (1H, s). ¹³**C-NMR** (D₂O, 151 MHz): 24.5 (NHAc), 24.6 (NHAc), 24.7 (NHAc), 55.1 (CH), 57.5 (CH), 62.0 (CH₂), 62.7 (CH₂), 63.6 (CH₂), 69.8 (CH), 70.3 (CH), 73.3 (CH), 74.8 (CH), 77.1 (CH), 77.9 (CH), 79.5 (CH), 79.8 (CH), 81.7 (CH), 103.6 (CH), 104.4 (CH), 112.6 (C), 141.3 (CH), 174.4 (CO, NHAc), 174.6 (CO, NHAc), 174.7 (CO, NHAc). **LRMS** (pos): m/z 632.4 [M+Na]⁺. **HRMS**: calcd for C₂₄H₃₉N₃O₁₅Na: 632.2279; found: 632.2280.

² M. Noguchi, T. Tanaka, H. Gyakushi, A. Kobayashi, S.-i. Shoda, J. Org. Chem. **2009**, 74, 2210 – 2212.

Inhibition Kinetics:

Kinetic studies were performed at 25 °C in 25mM sodium citrate, 25mM sodium phosphate, 100mM sodium chloride buffer in the presence of 1% BSA either at pH5 or pH7, using a known concentration of enzyme (SpHexWT = 2.1×10^{-7} mM; SpHexD313A = 2.85×10^{-5} mM; SpHexE314Q = 5.35×10^{-5} mM). The enzyme was incubated with different concentrations of the inhibitors for 2-5 minutes before initiating the reaction by the addition of substrate and the initial rate was measured by monitoring the increase in absorbance at 400 nm (pH7, ε = 10587 M⁻¹cm⁻¹) or at 348 nm (pNP isosbestic point, pH5-6, ε = 6700 M⁻¹cm⁻¹) for up to ten minutes. *K_i* determinations were performed using two to four different substrate concentration. Dixon plots (1/v vs [I]) were constructed to validate the use of competitive inhibition model and to assess the fit of the rest of the data. A competitive inhibition model was fit to the data by using non-linear regression analysis with Grafit 7.0.³

Dixon plots pH5



³ Leatherbarrow, R.J. (2010) GraFit Version 7, Erithacus Software Ltd., Horley, U.K.



Dixon plots pH7





Michaelis-Menten plots for NAG-pNP (pH5):



Michaelis-Menten plots for NAG-pNP (pH7):



Michaelis-Menten plot for NA-glucal hydration:

The initial rates of a series of reactions with varying substrate concentrations were measured by monitoring the disappearance of the absorbance at 250nm (due to the double bond, $\varepsilon = 1246.4 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) in 25mM sodium citrate, 25mM sodium phosphate, 100mM sodium chloride buffer containing 0.1% BSA at 25 °C with a final enzyme concentration of 4.2 μ M. The reaction rates thus obtained were plotted against their corresponding initial substrate concentration, and fitted to the Michaelis-Menten equation modified for substrate inhibition:



Vmax = 0.03 mM/min $k_{cat} = 0.12 \text{ s}^{-1}$ $K_m = 7.8 \pm 0.8 (\mu M)$ $K_i = 1751 \pm 164 (\mu M)$

Chitinases: Dixon plots





S12

Crystallography:

NA_glucol		
ha-giucai.		
Data collection	SpHEX NTA-glucal	SpHEX NA-glucal
Space group	P 6 ₁ 2 2	P 6 ₁ 2 2
Unit cell dimensions	<i>a</i> = <i>b</i> = 133.87 Å, <i>c</i> = 174.91 Å	<i>a</i> = <i>b</i> = 133.17 Å, <i>c</i> = 176.52 Å
Resolution (Å)	62.51 - 2.45 (2.55 - 2.45)*	54.81 - 2.00 (2.05 - 2.00)
R _{merge}	0.135 (0.544)	0.123 (0.704)
CC(1/2)	0.990 (0.867)	0.995 (0.772)
Ι/σΙ	12.4 (3.4)	11.1 (2.3)
Completeness (%)	96.7 (96.0)	98.2 (94.1)
Redundancy	9.0 (8.7)	7.2 (6.6)
Refinement		
R _{work} / R _{free}	0.15 / 0.21	0.15 / 0.18
B-factor (Å ²)	29.54	25.39
Protein	29.20	23.28
Ligands	39.21	35.70
Solvent	32.11	36.96
R.m.s. deviations		
Bond lengths (Å)	0.012	0.011
Bond angles (°)	1.15	1.06
Ramachandran plot		
favoured/allowed (%)	98/1.8	99/ 1.4

Table S1: Crystallographic and refinement statistics for SoHEX bound to NTA-glucal and

* Values in parentheses refer to the high-resolution shell.



Figure S1. GlcNAc bound to *SpHex*. Active site residues (grey) and GlcNAc (yellow) are drawn as sticks. Oxygen and nitrogen atoms are coloured red and blue, respectively. Red spheres represent waters. Hydrogen-bonds are shown by dashed lines. Electron density is an $|F_o| - |F_c|$ omit map contoured at 5.0 rmsd.

NMR spectra:













SpHex expression, purification and crystallization:

*Sp*Hex was expressed and purified as described previously (1). Crystals were grown at room temperature by the hanging drop vapour diffusion method using equal volumes of reservoir buffer (1.8 M AmSO₄, 0.1 M trisodium citrate pH 6) and protein (3.6 mg/ml). Individual *Sp*Hex crystals were soaked for 24 hours with NA-glucal or NTA-glucal at final concentrations of 4 mM to obtain protein-inhibitor complexes. The soaked crystals were cryoprotected in 1.8 M AmSO₄, 0.1 M trisodium citrate pH 6, and 25% glycerol prior to flash cooling to 100K for X-ray data collection. X-ray data were collected using a Rigaku R-AXIS IV++ detector and 007HF Microfocus X-ray generator at the University of Manitoba. The X-ray data were indexed using Mosflm (2), then scaled and averaged using SCALA (3). Structures of the *Sp*HEX complex with either NA-glucal or NTA-glucal were determined by molecular replacement using PHASER (from within the PHENIX package (4)) and a structure of *Sp*HEX (PDB ID: 1HP4) (from which solvent molecules had been removed) as a search model. 3D models of NA-glucal and NTA-glucal were constructed using Jligand (5) and restraint files generated using Coot (6). Refinement of the modeled complexes and addition of solvent was carried out using PHENIX.REFINE (4) and COOT (6). Crystallographic and refinement statistics are presented in Table S1.

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