Supporting Information (SI)

Stereoselective Synthesis of 2'-Modified Nucleosides by Using

ortho-Alkynyl Benzoate as A Gold(I)-Catalyzed Removable

Neighboring Participation Group

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1. General information

Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All the solvent were treated according to general methods. Flash column chromatography was performed using 300-400 mesh silica gel. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using glass plates pre-coated with 200-400 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). Thin layer chromatography plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light. Organic solutions were concentrated on rotary evaporators at ~20Torr (house vacuum) at 30–40°C. Commercial reagents and solvents were used as received. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 Spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) were given in ppm and are referenced to residual solvent peaks (CDCl₃: δ 7.26 ppm ¹H; δ 77.7 ppm ¹³C). Coupling constants (*J*) were reported in Hertz. High resolution mass spectra were obtained using a Bruker Dalton micro TOFQ II spectrometer.

2. Preparation of substrates

2.1 Synthesis of 2-O-(2-iodobenzoyl) -1,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-a-D-ribofuranoside(1a)



To a solution of 1,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranoside (4.62 g, 10.0 mmol) in pyridine was added 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (4.00 g, 15.0 mmol) dropwise in an ice-water bath. The reaction mixture was stirred and allowed to warm to room temperature. After reaction completed, the solvent was removed in *vacuo* and added CH₂Cl₂. Then, the mixture was sequentially washed with distilled water (2 × 30 mL) and brine (2 × 30 mL), The Organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solution was concentrated in *vacuo* and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with PE/EA = 5 : 1, V:V) to give the product **1a** as a yellow syrup (6.51 g, 94% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 – 8.02 (m, 6H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.72 – 5.70 (m, 1H), 4.91 – 4.90 (m, 1H), 4.78 (dd, J = 12.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd, J = 12.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.1, 164.7, 164.1, 163.5, 140.7, 132.6, 132.5, 132.4, 132.3, 131.7, 130.4, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.7, 93.7, 93.7, 81.9, 71.0, 69.6, 63.0; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₃H₂₅IO₉ [M+Na]⁺: 715.0441, found:715.0454.

2.2 Synthesis of 2-O-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-1,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-α-D-ribofuranoside (2)



A mixture solvent of THF/ Et₃N (3:1, V:V) was added to a mixture of **1a** (3.46 g, 5.0 mmol), CuI (47.6 mg, 0.25 mmol), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (175.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) in a round bottom flask under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at room temperature and hex-1-yne (493 mg, 6.0 mmol) was added dropwise. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was then heated to 50 °C for 3h. After completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was diluted with distilled water (100 mL) and extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 50 mL). The combined organics were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (eluted with PE/EA = 10:1 to 5:1, V:V) to afford product **2** as a yellow syrup (2.73 g, 84%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.72 – 5.70 (m, 1H), 4.91 – 4.90 (m, 1H), 4.79 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.60 – 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.48 – 1.37 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 165.8, 165.2, 164.2, 134.5, 133.6, 133.5, 133.4, 132.1, 130.1, 130.0, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.9, 125.6, 97.1, 94.9, 82.9, 78.8, 71.6, 70.9, 64.1, 30.6, 22.0, 19.4, 13.6; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₉H₃₄O₉ [M+Na]⁺: 669.2101, found: 669.2107.

2.3 General procedure for synthesis of substrates(3a-3i)



To a suspension of Base (1.2 mmol, 1.2 eq) in dry acetonitrile (15 mL) was added BSA (4.0 mmol, 4 eq) under argon atmosphere and heated at 60 °C for 30 min. After cooling, compound **2** (1.0 mmol, 1.0 eq) dissolved in dry acetonitrile (2 mL) was added. TMSOTf (4.0 mmol, 4.0 eq) was then added dropwise to the reaction mixture at 0 °C. The resulting solution was stirred for 20 min before heating to 80 °C for 3 h and poured into cold *sat*. NaHCO₃(30 mL). The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with *sat*. aq NaHCO₃ (2 × 30 mL) and brine (2 × 30 mL), and dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 100:1 to 30:1, v:v) to afford compound **3(a-i)**.

3. Characterization data of the substrates (3a-3i)



N⁶-benzoyl-9-[2-O-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl]adenine (**3a**)

Yield: 74%; White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.11 (s, 1H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.11 – 8.05 (m, 2H), 8.04 – 7.98 (m, 4H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62

-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 7.47 -7.36 (m, 5H), 7.22 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.41(t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (dd, J =12.1, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.85 -4.82 (m, 1H), 4.70 (dd, J = 12.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 2H), 1.58 -1.48 (m, 2H), 1.46 -1.48 (m, 2H),), 0.88 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 165.3, 164.6, 152.9, 151.6, 149.8, 141.7, 134.6, 133.6, 133.3, 132.7, 132.3, 130.5, 129.8, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.1, 125.3, 123.6, 97.0, 87.2, 80.8, 79.0, 74.1, 71.3, 63.5, 30.6, 22.0, 19.4, 13.5; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₄₄H₃₇N₅O₈ [M+H]⁺: 764.2720, found: 764.2718.



N-[2-*O*-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl]thymine (**3b**) Yield: 82%; syrup; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.94 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.42 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 5.94 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, J = 10.2Hz, 1H), 4.69 – 4.64 (m, 2H), 2.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.55 – 1.50(m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.39(m, 2H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.0, 165.5, 164.6, 164.0, 150.6, 135.3, 134.6, 133.6, 132.4, 130.7, 130.1, 129.9, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.2, 125.4, 112.1, 97.1, 87.3, 80.6, 79.0, 73.5, 71.2, 63.9, 30.6, 22.0, 19.5, 13.6, 12.1; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₇H₃₄N₂O₉ [M+H]⁺: 651.2343, found: 651.2339.



N-[2-O-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl]cytosine (3c)

Yield: 80%; syrup; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.88 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.34 (m, 6H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.84 – 5.76 (m, 1H), 4.74 – 4.56 (m, 3H), 2.33 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.54 – 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.32 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 165.2, 164.6, 164.1, 154.1, 141.6, 134.7, 133.8, 133.6, 132.5, 130.8, 129.9, 129.7, 129.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 127.4, 125.3, 97.0, 96.9, 89.8, 80.6, 79.2, 74.5, 71.1, 63.7, 30.6, 22.0, 19.5, 13.7; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₆H₃₃N₃O₈ [M+H]⁺: 636.2346, found: 636.2342.



N⁴-benzoyl-[2-O-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)]cytosine (3d)

Yield: 81%; syrup;¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.08 (s, 1H), 8.14 – 8.06 (m, 2H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.86 (m, 5H), 7.62 – 7.36 (m, 10H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.39 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.01 – 5.82 (m, 2H), 4.91 – 4.77 (m, 2H), 4.72 (dd, J = 12.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.58 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.32 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 165.3, 164.5, 162.8, 154.5, 144.4, 134.6, 133.6, 133.5, 133.2, 132.3, 130.9, 129.9, 129.7, 129.7, 129.3, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 127.2, 125.3, 97.4, 96.9, 90.1, 80.4, 79.3, 74.8, 70.5, 63.4, 30.6, 22.1, 19.5, 13.7; HRMS (ESI⁺): m/z calcd for: C₄₃H₃₇N₃O₉ [M+Na]⁺: 762.2427, found: 762.2421.



N-[2-O-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl]uracil (3e)

Yield: 82%; syrup; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.07 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.34 (m, 7H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 5.60 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.71 – 4.65 (m, 2H), 2.40 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.58 – 1.51(m, 2H), 1.47 – 1.38(m, 2H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2, 165.5, 164.7, 162.9, 150.1, 139.9, 134.8, 133.8, 133.7, 132.5, 130.8, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.3, 125.5, 103.4, 97.2, 88.5, 80.6, 79.2, 74.0, 71.0, 63.7, 30.7, 22.2, 19.6, 13.7; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₆H₃₂N₂O₉ [M+Na]⁺: 659.2006, found: 659.2021.



2-Acetamido-6-diphenylcarbamate-9-[2-*O*-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D -ribofuranosyl]guanine (**3f**)

Yield: 75%; syrup; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.99 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.32 (m, 18H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.39 – 6.38 (m, 1H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.28 – 6.26 (m, 1H), 4.96 – 4.81 (m, 2H), 4.75 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.36 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.55 – 1.48 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.36 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.9, 166.2, 165.3, 164.5, 156.3, 154.0, 152.4, 150.1, 142.4, 141.7, 134.7, 133.6, 133.4, 132.4, 130.5, 129.9, 129.6, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 127.1, 125.3, 120.8, 97.1, 87.9, 80.5, 79.0, 77.2, 74.4, 71.2, 63.5, 30.6, 25.1, 22.0, 19.5, 13.6; HRMS (ESI⁺): m/z calcd for: C₅₂H₄₆N₆O₁₀ [M+Na]⁺: 937.3173, found: 937.3108.



2-Fluoro-9-[2-*O*-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl]adenine (**3g**)

Yield: 70%; syrup; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 8.00 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.84 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.36 (m, 6H), 7.21 (td, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (brs, 2H), 6.39 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.26 – 6.16 (m, 2H), 4.87 (dd, J = 12.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.82 – 4.79 (m, 1H), 4.72 (dd, J = 12.1, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.57 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.34 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2, 165.4, 164.6, 160.4, 158.3, 157.4, 157.2, 151.2, 151.0, 138.9, 134.7, 133.7, 133.5, 132.4, 130.6, 129.9, 129.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.1, 125.3, 118.0, 117.9, 97.1, 86.7, 80.8, 79.0, 74.3, 71.2, 63.6, 30.6, 22.1, 19.5, 13.6; HRMS (ESI⁺): m/z calcd for: C₃₇H₃₂FN₅O₈ [M+Na]⁺: 700.2183, found: 700.2179.



2-Chloro-9-[2-*O*-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl]adenine (**3h**)

Yield: 73%; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 8.03 – 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.89 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.36 (m, 6H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.53 (s, 2H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.21 – 6.16 (m, 2H), 4.89 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.82 – 4.80 (m, 1H), 4.72 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.59 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.47 – 1.35 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2, 165.5, 164.7, 156.4, 154.7, 150.9, 139.0, 134.7, 133.8, 133.5, 132.5, 130.8, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 128. 9, 128.7, 128.6, 127.2, 125.5, 118.9, 97.2, 86.6, 81.1, 79.1, 74.6, 71.5, 63.8, 30.7, 22.1, 19.6, 13.7; HRMS (ESI⁺): m/z calcd for: C₃₇H₃₂CIN₅O₈ [M+Na]⁺: 716.1888 found: 716.1890.



N²-pivaloyl-6-chloro-7-cyano-8-bromo-9-[2-*O*-(2-hexynylbenzoyl)-3,5-di-*O*-benzoylβ-D-ribofuranosyl]pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine (**3i**) Yield: 73%; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 –7.53 (m, 2H), 7.44 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.64 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.90 – 4.86 (m, 2H), 4.66 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.61 – 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.50 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.34 (s, 9H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 175.2, 166.0, 165.6, 164.9, 152.9, 152.5, 151.0, 134.8, 133.6, 133.4, 132.5, 130.5, 129.9, 129.7, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 127.2, 125.3, 124.9, 112.7, 112.3, 102.0, 97.0, 91.0, 90.5, 79.6, 79.1, 74.4, 71.0, 62.6, 40.4, 30.7, 27.2, 22.1, 19.6, 13.7; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₄₄H₃₉BrClN₅O₈ [M+H]⁺: 882.1749, found: 882.1721.

4. General experimental procedure for 4(a-i)



To a solution of 3(a-i) (0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq)in CH₂Cl₂ was added H₂O (1.0 eq), and ethanol(6.0 eq) under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 minutes. The freshly prepared solution of Ph₃PAuOTf in CH₂Cl₂ (0.05 N, 0.5 mL) was added, and the stirring was continued at room temperature for 3 hours until **3(a-i)** was consumed as monitored by TLC. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 50:1 to 30:1, V:V) to afford compound **4(a-i)** as solid.

5. Characterization data of the products



N⁶-benzoyl-9-(3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)adenine (4a)

Yield: 96%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.59 – 7.37 (m, 7H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 5.87 – 5.71 (m, 1H), 5.33 – 5.29 (m, 1H), 4.76 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.70 – 4.69 (m, 1H), 4.61 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 4.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.2, 165.9, 165.2, 152.2, 151.3, 149.1, 142.2, 133.6, 133.4, 133.3, 132.9, 129.8, 129.6, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 122.5, 89.4, 81.0, 73.5, 73.2, 63.8; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₁H₂₅N₅O₇ [M+H]⁺:580.1832, found: 580.1821.



N-(3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)thymine (**4b**)

Yield: 95%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.56 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.56 – 5.44 (m, 1H), 4.80 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 4.68 – 4.51 (m, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.1, 164.2, 151.3, 134.6, 133.7, 133.6, 130.1, 129.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 111.8, 88.2, 80.7, 74.1, 72.7, 63.9, 12.1; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₂₄H₂₂N₂O₈ [M+Na]⁺: 489.1274, found: 489.1278.

1



N⁴-benzoyl-(3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)cytosine (**4d**) Yield: 97%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.22 (brs, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.08 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.93 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.50 – 7.38 (m, 7H), 6.02 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.84 – 4.76 (m, 2H), 4.70 (dd, J = 5.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd, J = 12.1, 3.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 165.8, 162.6, 155.8, 144.0, 133.7, 133.6, 133.3, 132.8, 130.0, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 97.2, 93.0, 81.2, 75.1, 72.7, 63.4; HRMS (ESI⁺): m/z calcd for: C₃₀H₂₅N₃O₈ [M+H]⁺: 578.1539, found: 578.1556.



N-(3,5-di-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)uracil (4e)

Yield: 96%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.40 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.67 – 4.62 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 165.8, 162.6, 155.8, 144.0, 133.7, 133.6, 133.3, 132. 8, 123.0, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 97.2, 93.0, 81.2, 75.1, 72.7, 63.4; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₂₃H₂₀N₂O₈ [M+H]⁺:453.1298, found: 453.1302.



2-Acetamido-6-diphenylcarbamate-9-(3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)guanine (**4f**)

S1

2

Yield: 93%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 (s, 1H), 8.11 – 8.10 (m, 3H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.20 (m, 12H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.74 – 4.71 (m, 2H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.4, 165.5, 165.4, 155.5, 153.1, 150.8, 149.9, 142.1, 141.1, 132.9, 132.8, 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 120.4, 91.0, 82.6, 74.2, 74.1, 63.3, 24.3; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₉H₃₄N₆O₉[M+Na]⁺:753.2285, found: 753.2290.



2-Fluoro-9-(3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)adenine (4g)

Yield: 93%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (brs, 2H), 7.73 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 2H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.74 – 4.59 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 166.0, 165.5, 160.2, 158.3, 158.1, 151.2, 151.01, 140.8, 134.1, 134.0, 130.0, 129.8, 129.8, 129.2, 118.2, 88.2, 79.8, 73.4, 71.5, 64.4; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₂₄H₂₀FN₅O₆ [M+H]⁺:494.1476, found: 494.1465.



2-Chloro-9-(3,5-di-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)adenine (4h)

Yield: 95%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.14 – 8.08 (m, 2H), 8.00 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.91 (brs, 2H), 7.74 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (q, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.73 – 4.58 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 165.5, 165.0, 156.9, 153.3, 150.4, 140.2, 140.1, 133.6, 133.5, 129.6,

129.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 118.3, 87.6, 79.4, 73.0, 71.3, 64.0, 54.9; HRMS (ESI⁺): m/z calcd for: C₂₄H₂₀ClN₅O₆ [M+H]⁺:510.1180, found: 510.1182.



N²-pivaloyl-6-chloro-7-cyano-8-bromo-9-(3,5-di-O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)pyrrol o[2,3-d]pyrimidine (4i)

Yield: 94%; Solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.31– 7.27 (m, 2H), 6.08 – 6.05 (m, 2H), 5.90 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.74 – 4.65 (m, 2H), 4.60 – 4.56 (m, 1H), 1.29 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.2, 166.0, 165.8, 152.1, 152.0, 151.0, 133.6, 133.3, 129.9, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 125.9, 112.6, 112.2, 91.2, 91.0, 80.7, 73.8, 71.5, 63.3, 40.5, 27.2; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₃₁H₂₇BrClN₅O₇ [M+Na]⁺:720.0662, found: 720.0675.

6 Synthesis of 2' -O-β-D- ribofuranosylnucleoside



6.1 Synthesis of N⁶-benzoyl-9-[3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-2-*O*-(2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl]- β -D-ribofuranosyl]adenine (5)

1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose (242 mg, 0.48 mmol) and **4a** (232 mg, 0.4 mmol) were dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (15 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C under N₂ atmosphere. Subsequently, the solution of tin tetrachloride (156 mg, 0.60 mmol) was added in one portion. After 7 hour at 0°C, the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated *aq*. NaHCO₃(30 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated *sat*. aq

NaHCO₃ (2 × 30 mL) and brine (2 × 30 mL), and dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with CH₂Cl₂) to afford white solid **5** (172 mg, 42%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.26 (brs, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.03 – 7.79 (m, 6H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 4H), 7.57 – 7.28 (m, 17H), 7.25-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.24 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 5.58 – 5.51 (m, 2H), 5.43-5.42 (m, 1H), 4.79 – 4.74 (m, 1H), 4.60 – 4.47 (m, 3H), 4.49 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 166.0, 165.9, 165.2, 164.7, 152.9, 151.4, 149.3, 142.7, 133.8, 133.6, 133.5, 133.4, 132.7, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 123.7, 106.8, 88.8, 80.6, 79.8, 78.6, 75.2, 72.2, 71.3, 64.3, 63.2, 60.4; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₅₇H₄₅N₅O₁₄ [M+H]⁺:1024.3041, found: 1024.3058.

6.2 Synthesis of 9-(2-*O*-β-D-ribofuranosyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)adenine (6)

A solution of 5 (200 mg, 0.2 mmol) in methanolic ammonia (MeOH saturated with NH₃ at 0°C, 10mL) was placed in an autoclave and stirred at 40 0°C for 12h. The reaction mixture was concentrated to dryness and the residue was extracted with CH₂Cl₂(10 mL) and water (10 mL). The aqueous layers were washed with CH₂Cl₂(2 × 10 mL) and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography (eluted with MeOH) to afford white solid **6** (72 mg, 92%). [a]₂₀^D -95°(c 0.50, DMSO); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 4.71 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.27 - 4.24 (m, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.7 Hz, 1H); δ ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, D₂O) δ 156.0, 153.0, 148.6, 141.0, 119.3, 106.4, 87.4, 86.7, 83.1, 78.7, 74.7, 71.3, 69.4, 63.1, 61.8; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₁₅H₂₁N₅O₈ [M+H]⁺:400.1468, found: 400.1472.

7. Synthesis of Clofarabine



7.1 2-Chloro-9-(2-O-trifyl-3,5-di-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)adenine (7)

To a solution of 4h (1.02 g, 2.0 mmol) in dichloromethane was added dry pyridine (0.4 mL, 5.0 mmol). The mixture was cooled to -20°C and the trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (0.42 mL, 2.5 mmol) was added slowly via syringe. After 5 hour at -20°C, the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aq. NaHCO₃(30 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 \times 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated sat. aq NaHCO₃ (2×30 mL) and brine (2×30 mL), and dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with PE/EtOAc = 2 : 1, V:V) to afford white solid 7 (1.22 g, 95%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (brs, 2H), 6.32 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.31 - 6.24 (m, 1H), 6.19 - 6.17 (m, 1H), 4.86 (dd, J = 12.3, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.80-4.77 (m, 1H), 4.67 (dd, J = 12.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 166.0, 165.0, 156.3, 154.8, 150.2, 139.2, 134.2, 133.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 119.9, 119.0, 116.7, 87.1, 84.2, 79.8, 69.7, 62.6; HRMS (ESI⁺): m/zcalcd for: $C_{15}H_{21}N_5O_8 [M+H]^+:642.0673$, found: 642.0675.

7.2 2-Chloro-9-(2-fluoro-3,5-di-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)adenine(8)

To a solution of 7 (0.90 g, 1.4 mmol) in ethyl acetate (20 mL) was added triethylamine trihydrofluoride (0.57 mL, 5.6 mmol) under N₂ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was heated to 70°C for 24 h. After completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated *aq*. NaHCO₃(30 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated *sat*. aq NaHCO₃ (2 × 30 mL) and brine (2 × 30 mL), and dried

(Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with PE/EtOAc = 2 : 1, V:V) to afford white solid **8** (473 mg, 66%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 – 8.03 (m, 5H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (dd, *J*_{C-F} = 22.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (brs, 2H), 5.75 (dd, *J*_{C-F} = 17.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (dd, *J*_{C-F} = 49.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 4.57 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2, 165.2, 156.0, 154.6, 150.5, 140.2, 140.1, 134.3, 133.5, 130.1, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.1, 117.3, 93.6, 91.7, 83.7, 83.6, 81.4, 77.2, 76.9, 76.6, 63.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -197.8; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₂₄H₁₉CIFN₅O₅ [M+Na]⁺:534.0956, found: 534.0953.

7.3 Synthesis of Clofarabine (9)

A solution of **8** (307 mg, 0.6 mmol) in methanolic ammonia (MeOH saturated with NH₃ at 0°C, 10mL) was placed in an autoclave and stirred at 40 0°C for 6h. The reaction mixture was concentrated to dryness and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 10:1,V:V) to afford white solid **9** (164 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (brs, 2H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (dt, *J*_{C-F} = 52.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.47 – 4.38 (m, 1H), 3.84 (q, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.74 – 3.56 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 157.3, 153.7, 150.6, 140.5, 117.8, 96.8, 94.9, 84.0, 83.9, 82.0, 81.8, 73.1, 72.9, 60.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ -198.1; HRMS (ESI⁺): *m/z* calcd for: C₁₀H₁₂ClFN₅O₃ [M+Na]⁺:326.0432, found: 306.0420.



8.1 H and 13C NMR spectra of the products

















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