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# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Synthesis and mass spectrometric analysis of disaccharides from

methanolysis of heparan sulfate

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#### 4'-Methylphenyl 2-azido-2-deoxy-1-thio-β-D-glucopyranoside (13)<sup>1,2</sup>

Off white solid; m.p. 114 – 115.5 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  –25.7 (*c* 3.7, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44-7.38 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.15-7.11 (m, 2H, Ar), 4.44 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  = 10.0 Hz, H-1), 3.90 (dd, 1H, A part of ABX,  $J_{5,6a}$  = 3.4 Hz,  $J_{6a,6b}$  = 11.9 Hz, H-6a), 3.80 (dd, 1H, B part of ABX,  $J_{5,6b}$  = 4.6 Hz, H-6b), 3.52 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3,4}$  =  $J_{4,5}$  = 9.1 Hz, H-4), 3.46 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3}$  =  $J_{3,4}$  = 9.1 Hz, H-3), 3.35 –3.32 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.23 (dd, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  =  $J_{2,3}$  = 9.6 Hz, 1H, H-2), 2.33 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  138.9, 133.8, 129.9, 127.2 (Ar), 86.5 (C-1), 79.1 (C-5), 77.2 (C-3), 70.1 (C-4), 64.9 (C-2), 62.4 (C-6), 21.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 334.0 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS: m/z calcd for  $C_{13}H_{17}N_3O_4SNa$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 334.0837, found: 334.0826.

### 4'-Methylphenyl 3-O-benzyl-4,6-O-isopropylidene-1-thio-α-L-idoside (29)<sup>2</sup>

White solid; m.p. 89 – 92.0 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  –85.8 (*c* 1.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44 – 7.32 (m, 7 H, Ar), 7.11-7.08 (m, 2H, Ar), 5.57 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.85, 4.57 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B}$  = 11.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.31 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{4,5}$  = 1.5 Hz,  $J_{5,6a}$  = 1.9 Hz,  $J_{5,6b}$  = 1.7 Hz, H-5), 4.12 (dd, 1H, A part of ABX,  $J_{6a,6b}$  = 12.9 Hz, H-6a), 4.07 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  = 1.5 Hz,  $J_{2,3}$  = 2.7 Hz,  $J_{2,OH}$  = 11.5 Hz, H-2), 4.04 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3,4}$  = 2.7 Hz, H-4), 4.00 (d, 1H, OH), 3.94 (dd, 1H, B part of ABX, H-6b), 3.66 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3}$  =  $J_{3,4}$  = 2.7 Hz, H-3), 2.31 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.45 (s, 6H, 2 × CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  137.4, 136.7, 133.5, 131.2, 130.6, 129.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6 (C-Ar), 99.2 (*C*(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 89.2 (C-1), 74.0 (C-3), 72.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 67.8 (C-2, C-4), 63.4 (C-6), 60.2 (C-5), 29.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.0 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 439.2 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 455.1 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>5</sub>SNa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 439.1550; found: 439.1547.

## Methyl 4,6-*O*-(4'-methoxybenzylidene)-α-D-glucoside (17)

Methyl  $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside **15** (6 g, 30.9 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (30 mL) and anisaldehyde dimethyl acetal (7.9 mL, 46.4 mmol) and camphor-10-sulfonic acid (360 mg,

1.55 mmol) were added (to pH 3). The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. under Ar for 18 h and was then neutralized by addition of Et<sub>3</sub>N (to pH 8). The resulting solution was then diluted with EtOAc, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated to dryness. The residue was then recrystallized from MeOH/*n*-hexane to give the 4<sup>2</sup>-methoxybenzylidene **17** as colourless crystals (3.75 g, 39 %);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.76$  (EtOAc/MeOH, 9:1); m.p. 200 – 201 °C (lit.<sup>3</sup> 201 – 202 °C); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> +87.5 (*c* 2.8, CHCl<sub>3</sub>; lit.<sup>3</sup> +88, *c* 1.0, MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.46-7.40 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.93-6.88 (m, 2H, Ar), 5.52 (s, 1H, CHAr), 4.83 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 3.8$  Hz, H-1), 4.30 (dd, 1H, A part of ABX,  $J_{5.6a} = 4.5$ ,  $J_{6a,6b} = 9.9$  Hz, H-6a), 3.95 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2.3} = J_{3.4} = 9.1$  Hz, H-3), 3.85 – 3.80 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.78 (s, 3H, ArOCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.75 (dd, 1H, B part of ABX,  $J_{6a,6b} = J_{5.6b} = 10.1$  Hz, H-6b), 3.65 (dt, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 4.0$ ,  $J_{2,3} = J_{2,OH} = 9.1$  Hz, H-2), 3.51 (dd, 1H,  $J_{4.5} = J_{3.4} = 9.3$  Hz, H-4), 3.45 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>). 2.65 (s, 1H, OH-3), 2.24 (d, 1H,  $J_{2.OH} = 9.4$  Hz, OH-2); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 160.3, 129.5, 127.6, 113.7 (C-Ar), 101.9 (ArCH), 99.7 (C-1), 80.8 (C-4), 72.9 (C-2), 71.9 (C-3), 68.9 (C-6), 62.4 (C-5), 55.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.3 (ArOCH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 313.07 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 335.04 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 350.96 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>.

#### Methyl 2,3-di-*O*-benzyl-4,6-*O*-(4'-methoxybenzylidene)-α-D-glucoside (19)

The diol **17** (2.0 g, 6.41 mmol) dissolved in anhydrous DMF (7 mL) was slowly added to a suspension of NaH (616 mg, 15.4 mmol, pre-washed with *n*-hexane) in anhydrous DMF (7 mL). The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 min, and BnBr (1.83 mL, 15.4 mmol) was added dropwise under ice-cooling. The stirring was continued for 10 min under ice-cooling, and for an additional 1.5 h at r.t. MeOH (10 mL) was added slowly to quench the reaction. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was recrystallized from EtOAc/*n*-hexane to give the dibenzyl ether **19** as colourless crystals (3.15 g, 100%);  $R_f = 0.17$  (EtOAc/*n*-hexane, 1:4); m. p. 141 – 142 °C (lit.<sup>4</sup> 143 – 144 °C);  $[\alpha]_D$  -42.9 (*c* 1.11, CHCl<sub>3</sub>; lit.<sup>4</sup> -22); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.39 - 7.23 (m, 12H,

Ar), 6.90-6.86 (m, 2H, Ar), 5.49 (s, 1H, CHAr), 4.88, 4.81 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.2$  Hz, PhC $H_2$ ), 4.83, 4.67 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 12.2$  Hz, PhC $H_2$ ), 4.75 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 3.6$  Hz, H-1), 4.22 (dd, 1H, A part of ABX,  $J_{5,6a} = 4.8$  Hz,  $J_{6a,6b} = 10.3$  Hz, H-6a), 4.02 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = J_{3,4} = 9.3$  Hz, H-3), 3.80 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{4,5} = J_{5,6b} = 9.9$  Hz, H-5), 3.79 (s, 3H, ArOC $H_3$ ), 3.67 (dd, 1H, B part of ABX,  $J_{5,6b} = J_{6a,6b} = 10.3$  Hz, H-6b), 3.57 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3,4} = J_{4,5} = 9.3$  Hz, H-4), 3.53 (dd, 1H, H-2), 3.38 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  159.9, 138.7, 138.1, 129.9, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 113.5 (C-Ar), 101.2 (ArCH), 99.2 (C-1), 82.0 (C-4), 79.1 (C-2), 78.6 (C-3), 75.3, 73.7 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 69.0 (C-6), 62.3 (C-5), 55.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.2 (ArOCH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 493.1 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 515.1 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>, 531.1 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 515.2040, found: 515.2020.

### Methyl 2,3-di-*O*-benzyl-α-D-glucopyranoside (21)

The 4'-methoxybenzylidene **19** (3.0 g, 6.09 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 1:1 TFA/ H<sub>2</sub>O (24 mL), and stirred for 21 h at r.t. The solution was then diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were neutralized with Et<sub>3</sub>N to pH 8, then washed with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (20 mL), brine (20 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-hexane, 1:1) to give the diol **21** as a colourless oil (2.09 g, 91%);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.1$  (EtOAc/*n*-hexane, 1:1); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> +23.8 (*c* 5.6, CHCl<sub>3</sub>; lit.<sup>4</sup> +18.5, *c* 2.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.36 – 7.27 (m, 10H, Ph), 5.00, 4.69 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{\rm A,B} = 11.5$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.74, 4.63 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{\rm A,B} = 12.1$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.58 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 3.6$  Hz, H-1), 3.77 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = J_{3,4} = 9.3$  Hz, H-3), 3.76 – 3.72 (m, 2H, H-6), 3.58 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{4,5} = J_{5,6b} = 9.7$  Hz,  $J_{5,6a} = 3.9$  Hz, H-5), 3.49 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{3,4} = J_{4,5} = 9.7$  Hz,  $J_{4,OH} = 2.7$  Hz, OH-4), 2.02 (dd, 1H,  $J_{OH,6a} = 5.6$  Hz,  $J_{OH,6b} = 7.0$  Hz, OH-6); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  138.7, 137.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8 (Ph), 98.1 (C-1), 81.3 (C-3), 79.7 (C-2), 75.3, 73.1 (2 × *C*H<sub>2</sub>Ph), 70.6 (C-5), 70.3 (C-4), 62.3 (C-6), 55.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS:  $m/z = 397.1 \text{ [M+Na]}^+$ ; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 397.1622, found: 397.1625.

#### Methyl (methyl 2,3-di-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosid)uronate (23)

The diol 21 (2.0 g, 5.34 mmol) was dissolved in 3:1 DCM/H<sub>2</sub>O (32 mL) and to this solution, TEMPO (167 mg, 1.07 mmol) and BAIB (3.4 g, 10.7 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred vigorously at r.t. for 2 h. The resulting solution was washed with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The crude carboxylic acid (5.34 mmol) was used in the next step without further purification, and it was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (32 mL), and to this mixture, iodomethane (0.5 mL, 8.02 mmol) and KHCO<sub>3</sub> (1.07 g, 10.7 mmol) were added. The resulting solution was stirred at r.t. for 24 h under Argon in the dark. The reaction mixture was then concentrated to dryness and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/n-hexane, 1:4) to give the ester 23 as yellow oil (1.1 g, 52 %);  $R_{\rm f} =$ 0.4 (EtOAc/n-hexane, 1:1);  $[\alpha]_D$  + 15.0 (c 1.91, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The NMR and MS data were in accord with the literature.<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 10H, Ph), 4.89, 4.79 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.3$  Hz,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 4.78, 4.63 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 12.1$  Hz,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 4.64 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} =$ 3.4 Hz, H-1), 4.13 (d, 1H,  $J_{4,5} = 8.9$  Hz, H-5), 3.81 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = J_{3,4} = 8.6$  Hz, H-3), 3.78 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3,4} = J_{4,5} = 8.5$  Hz, H-4), 3.77 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.52 (dd, 1H, H-2), 3.41 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 170.6 (C=O), 138.6, 137.9, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8 (Ph), 98.7 (C-1), 80.4 (C-3), 78.4 (C-2), 75.4, 73.6 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 71.8 (C-4), 70.5 (C-5), 55.8 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.6 (CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 425.1 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 441.0 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 425.1571, found: 425.1570.

## Methyl 4,6-*O*-(4'-methoxybenzylidene)-β-D-glucoside (18)

Methyl  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside hemihydrate **16** (6.5 g, 33.4 mmol) was dried under high vacuum overnight. It was then dissolved in anhydrous DMF (60 mL), and anisaldehyde dimethyl acetal (8.5 mL, 50.2 mmol) and freshly dried AW300 mol sieves (3 g) were added. Camphor-10sulfonic acid (388 mg, 1.67 mmol) was added to pH 3. The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. under argon for 18 h. The solution was neutralized by addition of Et<sub>3</sub>N (to pH 8) and then diluted with EtOAc, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was then purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/n-hexane, 1:1) to give the pmethoxybenzylidene **18** as white solid (5.21 g, 52%);  $R_f = 0.47$  (EtOAc/MeOH, 9:1); m.p. 176 °C; lit.<sup>6</sup> 176 – 177 °C; [a]<sub>D</sub> +10.5 (c 4.5, MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.89-6.85 (m, 2H, Ar), 5.47 (s, 1H, CHAr), 4.32 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6a} = 5.0$  Hz,  $J_{6a,6b} =$ 10.3 Hz, H-6a), 4.30 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.8$  Hz, H-1), 3.82 - 3.76 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.78 (s, 3H, ArOCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.74 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6b} = J_{6a,6b} = 10.3$  Hz, H-6b), 3.56 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.51 (dd,  $J_{3,4} = J_{4,5}$ = 9.3 Hz, H-4), 3.47 - 3.46 (m, 1H, H-2), 3.43 (ddd, 1H, H-5), 2.81 (d, 1H,  $J_{3,OH} = 2.4$  Hz, OH-3), 2.68 (d, 1H,  $J_{2,OH} = 2.5$  Hz, OH-2); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  160.3, 129.4, 127.6, 113.7 (C-Ar), 104.1 (C-1), 101.8 (CHAr), 80.5 (C-4), 74.5 (C-2), 73.2 (C-3), 68.6 (C-6), 66.4 (C-5), 57.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.3 (ArOCH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS:  $m/z = 313.06 [M+H]^+$ , 335.01 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 350.93  $[M+K]^+$ ; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na  $[M+Na]^+$ : 335.1101, found: 335.1091.

#### Methyl 2,3-di-*O*-benzyl-4,6-*O*-(4'-methoxybenzylidene)-β-D-glucoside (20)

The diol **18** (5.2 g, 16.6 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (15 mL). A suspension of NaH (1.6 g, 39.7 mmol, pre-washed with *n*-hexane  $\times$  3) in anhydrous DMF (15 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 min, and then BnBr (4.73 mL, 39.7 mmol) was added dropwise under ice-cooling. The stirring was continued for 10 min under ice-cooling, and for an additional 3 h at r.t. MeOH (20 mL) was slowly added to quench the reaction. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated.

The residue was recrystallised from EtOAc/*n*-hexane to give the dibenzyl ether **20** as white crystals (7.96 g, 98%);  $R_f = 0.28$  (EtOAc/*n*-hexane, 1:4); m.p. 148 – 150 °C, lit.<sup>6</sup> 151 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  –46.7 (*c* 0.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), lit.<sup>6</sup> –39.0 (*c* 1.19, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.42-7.24 (m, 12H, Ar), 6.91-6.87 (m, 2H, Ar), 5.52 (s, 1H, CHAr), 4.88, 4.77 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.4$  Hz, C $H_2$ Ph), 4.85, 4.74 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.0$  Hz, C $H_2$ Ph), 4.40 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.7$  Hz, H-1), 4.33 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6a} = 5.0$  Hz,  $J_{6a,6b} = 10.3$  Hz, H-6a), 3.80 (s, 3H, ArOCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.76 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6b} = J_{6a,6b} = 10.3$  Hz, H-6b), 3.73 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = 8.6$  Hz,  $J_{3,4} = 9.3$  Hz, H-3), 3.65 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3,4} = J_{4,5} = 9.3$  Hz, H-4), 3.57 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.42 (dd, 1H, H-2), 3.38 (ddd, 1H, H-5); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  160, 138.5, 138.4, 129.8, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 127.5, 127.3, 113.6 (C-Ar), 105.2 (C-1), 101.0 (CHAr), 82.2 (C-2), 81.4 (C-4), 80.8 (C-3), 75.2, 75.0 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 68.7 (C-6), 66.0 (C-5), 57.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.3 (ArOCH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 493.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 515.2 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 531.1 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 515.2040, found: 515.2051.

## Methyl 2,3-di-*O*-benzyl-β-D-glucopyranoside (22)

The 4'methoxybenzylidene **20** (2.5 g, 5.08 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of TFA/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, 24 mL) and stirred for 18 h at r.t. The solution was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and then extracted with EtOAc (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were neutralized with Et<sub>3</sub>N to pH 8, then washed with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (20 mL), brine (20 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was then purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-hexane, 1:1) to give the diol **22** as white solid (1.79 g, 94%);  $R_f = 0.08$  (EtOAc/*n*-hexane, 1:1); m.p. 104 – 105 °C, lit.<sup>7</sup>104 – 105 °C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> –12.5 (*c* 5.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), lit.<sup>7</sup> –7 (*c* 3.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.33 – 7.24 (m, 10 H, Ph), 4.94, 4.66 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.5$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.91, 4.68 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.1$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.35 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.6$  Hz, H-1), 3.89 – 3.85 (m, 1H, H-6a), 3.78 – 3.73 (m, 1H, H-6b), 3.56 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.54 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{4,OH} = 2.0$  Hz,  $J_{3,4} = J_{4,5} = 9.0$  Hz, H-4), 3.44 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = J_{3,4} = 9.0$  Hz, H-3), 3.37 (dd, 1H, H-2), 3.33

- 3.30 (m, 1H, H-5), 2.40 (d, 1H,  $J_{4,OH} = 2.0$  Hz, OH-4), 2.12 (t, 1H,  $J_{6,OH} = 6.7$  Hz, OH-6); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  138.5, 138.3, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7 (Ph), 104.9 (C-1), 83.8 (C-3), 81.9 (C-2), 75.2 (C-5), 74.8, 74.6 (2 × *C*H<sub>2</sub>Ph), 70.3 (C-4), 62.6 (C-6), 57.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 397.1 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 413.1 [M+K]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS: m/z calcd for  $C_{21}H_{26}O_6Na$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 397.1622, found: 397.1630.

### Methyl (methyl 2,3-di-*O*-benzyl-β-D-glucopyranosid)uronate (24)

The diol 22 (509 mg, 1.36 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of DCM/H<sub>2</sub>O (3:1, 8 mL), and to this mixture, TEMPO (43 mg, 0.27 mmol) and BAIB (876 mg, 2.7 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred vigorously at r.t. for 2 h. The solution was then washed with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (8 mL), and to this mixture, iodomethane (0.13 mL, 2.04 mmol) and KHCO<sub>3</sub> (272 mg, 2.72 mmol) were added. The resulting solution was stirred at r.t. for 18 h in the dark under argon. The reaction mixture was then concentrated to dryness and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/n-hexane, 1:4) to give the ester 24 as a colourless oil (441 mg, 80 %);  $R_f = 0.33$  (EtOAc/*n*-hexane, 1:1);  $[\alpha]_D$  -15.7 (*c* 3.6, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The NMR data were in accord with the literature.<sup>8</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.30 – 7.24 (m, 10H, Ph), 4.87, 4.78 (ABq, 2H, J<sub>A,B</sub> = 11.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.86, 4.69 (ABq, 2H, J<sub>A,B</sub> = 11.0 Hz,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 4.35 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.6$  Hz, H-1), 3.85 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{4,OH} = 2.1$  Hz,  $J_{3,4} = J_{4,5} = 9.7$  Hz, H-4), 3.82 (d, 1H, H-5), 3.80 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.57 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 9.1 Hz, H-3), 3.42 (dd, 1H, H-2), 2.82 (d, 1H, OH-4); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 169.7 (C=O), 138.4, 138.2, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7 (Ph), 104.9 (C-1), 83.0 (C-3), 81.1 (C-2), 75.3, 74.8 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 74.1 (C-5), 71.7 (C-4), 57.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.7 (CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: *m/z*  $= 425.1 \text{ [M+Na]}^+$ ; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na [M+Na]^+: 425.1571, found: 425.1570.

#### Methyl (methyl 2,3-di-*O*-benzyl-β-L-idopyranosid)uronate (37)

The diol 34 (680 mg, 1.8 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of DCM/H<sub>2</sub>O (3:1, 12 mL), and to this mixture, TEMPO (57 mg, 0.4 mmol) and BAIB (1.17 g, 3.6 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred vigorously at r.t. for 3 h. The solution was then washed with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (12 mL), and to this mixture, iodomethane (0.17 mL, 2.73 mmol) and KHCO<sub>3</sub> (364 mg, 3.6 mmol) were added. The solution was stirred in the dark at r.t. for 24 h under argon. The mixture was then concentrated and the residue purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/n-hexane, 1:4) to give the ester 37 as yellow oil (486 mg, 67 %);  $R_f = 0.43$  (EtOAc/nhexane, 1:1); [α]<sub>D</sub>+90.1 (*c* 1.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), lit.<sup>9</sup>+109 (*c* 2.7, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.33 – 7.21 (m, 10H, Ph), 4.85, 4.59 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B}$  = 12.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.66 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  = 1.2 Hz, H-1), 4.54, 4.49 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.8$  Hz,  $CH_2Ph$ ), 4.48 (d, 1H,  $J_{4,5} = 1.7$  Hz, H-5),  $3.97 (dd, 1H, J_{3,4} = 3.6 Hz, H-4), 3.80 (dd, 1H, J_{2,3} = J_{3,4} = 3.6 Hz, H-3), 3.79 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>),$ 3.59 (dd, 1H, H-2), 3.57 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 169.5 (C=O), 137.4, 137.2, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7 (Ph), 101.1 (C-1), 75.7 (C-3), 74.9 (C-5), 74.3 (C-2), 74.1, 72.3 (2 × CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 68.1 (C-4), 57.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.2 (CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: *m*/*z* = 420.2  $[M+NH_4]^+$ , 425.2  $[M+Na]^+$ , 441.1  $[M+K]^+$ ; HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na  $[M+Na]^+$ : 425.1571, found: 425.1580.

Methyl (methyl 2-*O*-benzoyl-3-*O*-benzyl- $\alpha$ -L-idopyranosiduronate)-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-2-azido-3-*O*-benzyl-6-*O*-benzoyl-2-deoxy- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside (42)<sup>2</sup>

White solid; m.p.: 62 - 65 °C;  $[\alpha]_D + 47.9$  (*c* 3.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), lit.<sup>10</sup> +44; lit.<sup>11</sup> +31.8; The NMR spectra were in accord with the literature.<sup>10, 12</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.05 – 7.24 (m, 20H, Ph), 5.37 (s, 1H, H-1'), 5.21 – 5.20 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.97 (d, 1H,  $J_{4',5'} = 2.4$  Hz, H-5'), 4.82, 4.67 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 10.7$  Hz,  $CH_2$ Ph), 4.80, 4.69 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 12.0$  Hz,  $CH_2$ Ph), 4.81 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 2.9$  Hz, H-1), 4.78 (dd, 1H, A part of ABX,  $J_{5,6a} = 1.8$  Hz,  $J_{6a,6b} = 12.2$  Hz, H-6a), 4.48 (dd, 1H, B part of ABX,  $J_{5,6b} = 4.2$  Hz, H-6b), 4.05 – 3.97 (m, 3H, H-4, H-4', H-5), 3.92 – 3.86 (m, 2H, H-3', H-3), 3.47 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = 6.6$ Hz, H-2), 3.49 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.45 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  169.4, 166.0, 165.0 (3 × C=O), 137.7, 137.2, 133.6, 133.0, 129.7, 129.7, 129.6, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 127.4 (Ph), 98.4 (C-1), 98.0 (C-1'), 78.7 (C-3), 75.3 (C-4), 75.0 (C-3'), 74.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 72.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 69.2 (C-5), 68.8 (C-5'), 68.1 (C-4'), 67.9 (C-2'), 63.8 (C-2), 62.7 (C-6), 55.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.0 (CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS: m/z = 820.2 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

## Methyl (methyl 1-thio-β-D-glucopyranosid)uronate (44)

White solid; m.p.: 121 - 122 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  –43.2 (*c* 2.1, MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.36 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 9.5$  Hz, H-1), 4.30 (br. s, 1H, OH), 4.05 (br. s, 1H, OH), 3.91 (d, 1H,  $J_{4,5} = 9.5$  Hz, H-5), 3.82 (s, 3H, CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (dd, 1H,  $J_{4,5} = J_{3,4} = 9.5$  Hz, H-4), 3.63 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = J_{3,4} = 9.5$  Hz, H-3), 3.61 (br. s, 1H, OH), 3.50 (dd, 1H, H-2), 2.23 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  169.6 (C=O), 86.4 (C-1), 77.9 (C-5), 76.9 (C-3), 71.4 (C-2), 71.2 (C-4), 52.9 (CO<sub>2</sub>*Me*), 12.3 (SMe); LRMS: *m*/*z* = 261.0 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS: *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>6</sub>SNa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 261.0409, found: 261.0405.

Methyl 2-azido-6-O-benzoyl-3-O-benzyl-2-deoxy-α-D-glucopyranoside (46)<sup>2</sup>

White solid; m.p.: 55 – 58 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  +78.3 (*c* 3.65, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), lit. <sup>13</sup> +73.8; lit.<sup>14</sup> +60.5; The NMR data were in accord with the literature.<sup>13, 14</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.06-8.02 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.57–7.30 (m, 8H, Ph), 4.93, 4.83 (ABq, 2H,  $J_{A,B} = 11.1$  Hz,  $CH_2$ Ph), 4.81 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 3.6$  Hz, H-1), 4.74 (dd, 1H, A part of ABX,  $J_{5,6a} = 4.2$  Hz,  $J_{6a,6b} = 12.2$  Hz, H-6a), 4.47 (dd, 1H, B part of ABX,  $J_{5,6b} = 2.2$  Hz, H-6b), 3.87 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{4,5} = 9.1$  Hz, H-5), 3.85 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3,4} = 9.1$  Hz,  $J_{2,3} = 10.1$  Hz, H-3), 3.57 (dd, 1H, H-4), 3.45 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.38 (dd, 1H, H-2), 2.79 (br s, 1H, OH-4); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.1 (C=O), 137.8, 133.3, 129.7, 129.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1 (Ph), 98.8 (C-1), 79.7 (C-3), 75.3 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 70.6 (C-4), 70.0 (C-5), 63.3 (C-6), 63.1 (C-2), 55.3 (OMe); LRMS: m/z = 436.1 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 849.2 [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

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HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 1 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 384-162







HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 2 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 426-204





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 3 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 384-162





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 4 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 426-204





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 5 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 384-162





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 6 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 426-204





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 7 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 384-162





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 8 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 426-204





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 9 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 384-352





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 10 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 426-394





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 11 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 384-352





HS d6 internal standard (blue dotted trace) MRM transition m/z 390-162 Disaccharide 12 (Red solid trace) MRM transition m/z 426-394




Confirmation of methanolysis digestion products of HS shown by the addition of known synthesised disaccharide standards. An internal standard of HS d6 digest is shown (blue dotted trace, MRM m/z 390-162) compared to the primary HS digestion products (Red solid trace, MRM m/z 384-162). For comparison purpose all signal intensities are displayed as % response normalised to the signal intensity of the digestion products of 10 µg HS (A), with the standard addition of disaccharide **1** (B), disaccharide **5** (C) and disaccharide **7** (D).











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