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## **Supporting Information**

# Synthesis and DNA polymerase recognition of 2'-deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates bearing 4-phenyl and 4-pyrimidinyl imidazoles as nucleobases

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Temperature	POCl₃ (equiv)	% 9	% 10	% 11	% 9	% 10	% 11
		after 30 min			after 60 min		
2°C (ice bath)	1.20	1	65	34	ND	ND	ND
–5°C	1.15	ND	ND	ND	0	78	22
–5°C	1.05	12	82	6	9	84	7
-10°C	1.15	1	86	12	0	82	18
-10°C	1.05	15	80	5	8	85	7

Table S1. % Conversion of 9 into phosphorylated products 10 and 11 as a function oftemperature/time

*Reaction conditions*: (9) (0.1 mmol) and proton sponge (1.2 equiv) in  $PO(OMe)_3$  (0.9 mL) was stirred for 10 min at the indicated temperature, then  $POCl_3$  (as indicated) in  $PO(OMe)_3$  (0.1 mL) was added dropwise. Aliquots of the reaction mixture were hydrolysed after 30 and 60 min and analysed by HPLC (detection at 230 nm).

#### Figure S1. HPLC monitoring at 230 nm of phosphorylation reaction



Reaction conditions: 1.05 equiv POCl<sub>3</sub> at  $-5^{\circ}$ C (Table S1); Analytical C18 column, 0-20% linear gradient of acetonitrile in 40 mM TEAA buffer over 20 min. Retention times ( $t_{\rm R}$ ): 7.37 min for **11**, 9.24 min for **10**, 13.20 min for **9**.

Sequence
5'-ATTGGTAGCACGGTCAGTTCGGAGT-3'
3'-TAACCATCGTGCCAGTCAAGCCTCAAAAAA-5'
5'-CAGGAAACAGCTATGAC-3'
3'-GTCCTTTGTCGATACTG <b>TTTTT</b> -5'

**Oligodeoxynucleotide sequences used in PEX experiments** 





**Figure S2**. PAGE analysis of primer extension experiments with KF (exo-) using template T5 after incorporation of an analogue (0, 10, 25, 100, 250  $\mu$ M as indicated by the arrow) or dTTP (10  $\mu$ M) in the absence or presence of Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions (0.25 mM) (Panel a or b, respectively).



**Figure S3**. PAGE analysis of primer extension experiments with KF (exo-) using template T6 after incorporation of an analogue (0, 10, 25, 100, 250  $\mu$ M  $\mu$ M as indicated by the arrow) or dATP (10  $\mu$ M) in the absence or presence of Mn<sup>+</sup> ions (0.25 mM) (Panel a or b, respectively).

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Figure S4. PAGE analysis of primer extension experiments with Vent (exo-) using template T5 after incorporation of an analogue (0, 10, 25, 100, 250 μΜ μΜ as indicated by the arrow) or dTTP (10  $\mu$ M, noted T)

in the absence or presence of Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions (0.25 mM) (Panel a or b, respectively).













Compound 1 (I)





### Compound 2 (Ph)



# Compound 3 (3MPh)



# Compound 4 (3APh)











