SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Probing the furanose conformation in the 2'-5'strand of *iso*DNA:RNA duplexes by freezing nucleoside conformations

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General information:

All the non-aqueous reactions were carried out under the inert atmosphere of Nitrogen/ Argon and the chemicals used were of laboratory or analytical grade. All solvents used were dried and distilled according to standard protocols. TLCs were carried out on pre-coated silica gel GF254 sheets (Merck 5554). Column chromatographic separations were performed using silica gel 60-120 mesh (Merck) or 200- 400 mesh (Merck) and using the solvent systems EtOAc/Pet ether and MeOH/DCM. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained using Bruker AC-200, AC-400 or NMR spectrometers. The chemical shifts are reported in delta (δ) values and referred to internal standard TMS for ¹H. Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan-Matt mass spectrometer. Oligomers were analyzed by RP HPLC (Varian/Waters) on a C18 column using an increasing gradient of acetonitrile in 0.1N triethylammonium acetate, pH 7.0, and characterized by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. The MALDI-TOF spectra were recorded on Voyager-De-STR (Applied Biosystems) MALDI-TOF instrument and the matrix used for analysis was THAP (2',4',6'trihydroxyacetophenone). DNA oligomers were synthesized on a Bioautomation Mer-Made 4 synthesizer using standard β -cyanoethyl phosphoramidite chemistry.

Experimental procedures for compounds Ia, IIa, IIIa, IVa (R₁=DMT, R₂=H) General procedure for the synthesis of Ia-IVa (R₁=DMT, R₂=H):

Synthesis of 1-(5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-3'-deoxy-3'-fluoro-β-D-xylofuranocyl) uracil IVa :

A mixture of compound 3'-deoxy-3'-xylofluorouridine IV ($R_1=R_2=H$), (0.200g, 0.81mmol), 4, 4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride, (DMTCl) (0.827g, 2.4mmol), and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) catalytic amount was dissolved in pyridine (5mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12h. The pyridine was removed under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (100mL), washed with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ (2 X 50ml) and saturated aqueous NaCl (2X30mL). The ethyl acetate layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by silica gel (neutralized with Et₃N) column chromatography using EtOAC / Pet ether (8:2) to offer the title compound IV_a, (70%, white foam). Compounds I, II and III were likewise converted to their respective dimethoxytrityl derivatives Ia, IIa, IIIa respectively.

Spectral data for Compounds IIa, IIIa, IVa ($R_1 = DMT$, $R_2 = H$),

IIb, IIIb, IVb (R_1 = DMT, R_2 = P(OCH₂C N-CH(CH

 $\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{P}(\mathsf{OCH}_2\mathsf{CH}_2\mathsf{CN}) \quad),\\ \dot{\mathsf{N}}-\mathsf{CH}(\mathsf{CH}_3)_2 \\ \dot{\mathsf{CH}}(\mathsf{CH}_3)_2 \end{array}$

1. 5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-2'-hydroxy-3',6'-anhydro-uridine IIa

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz): δ 3.18-3.34 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 4.16-4.17 (d, 1H), 4.33-4.44 (m,2H), 5.71 (d,1H, J = 8.1Hz) 5.77 (s, 1H), 6.83-6.86 (m,4H), 7.27-7.51 (m, 9H) 8.30 (d,1H, J = 8.1Hz), 10.16 (bs, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz): δ 55.2, 72.2, 75.1, 80.1, 85.3, 86.7, 88.0, 96.0, 101.3, 113.3-113.4, 123.8, 127.1, 127.8, 128.1, 129.9, 135.8, 136.0, 136.0, 140.6, 144.9, 149.6, 150.8 158.8, 164.2. Mass: mass calculated for $C_{31}H_{30}N_2O_8 + Na^+ 581.1900$, observed mass m/z 581.08 M+ 23(Na).

2. 1-(5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-3'-deoxy-3'-fluoro-β-D-ribofuranosyl) uracil IIIa

¹H NMR (CDCl₃,200MHz): δ 3.39-3.54 (m, 2H). 3.78 (s, 6H), 4.36-4.45 (m, 2H), 4.94-5.23 (dd, 1H, $J_{3',F} = 54.3$ and $J_{3',4'} = 2.0$ Hz), 5.45 (d,1H, $J_{6,5} = 8.0$ Hz), 6.15 (d,1H, $J_{1,2}=6.5$ Hz), 6.84 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.33 (m, 9H),7.71 (d, 1H, $J_{5,6}= 8.0$ Hz) ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃,50 MHz,): δ 55.2, 62.7, 74.8, 82.2, 87.4, 90.0, 93.6, 103.0, 113.3, 127.2, 128.0, 129.9,134.8,139.7, 143.8, 151.2, 158.7, 163.4. Mass: mass calculated for C₃₀H₂₉FN₂O₇ +Na⁺ 571.1856, observed mass m/z 571.15 M+ 23(Na).

3. 1-(5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-3'-deoxy-3'-fluoro-β-D-xylofuranosyl) uracil IVa

¹H NMR (CDCl₃,200MHz): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ: 3.53 (m, 2H). 3.80 (s, 6H), 4.40 (d, 1H), 4.51-4.73 (m, 1H), 4.86-5.10 (dd, 1H, $J_{3',F} = 50.7$ and $J_{3',4'} = 3.1$ Hz), 5.63 (d, 1H, $J_{65} = 8.2$ Hz), 6.87(m, 4H) 5.81(s, 1H), 7.26-7.35(m, 9H), 7.46 (d, 1H, $J_{5,6} = 8.2$ Hz), ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃,50MHz): δ 55.1, 60.3, 78.4, 82.8, 86.5, 93.0, 96.4, 101.7, 113.1, 126.9, 127.8, 128.0, 130.0, 135.5, 139.8, 144.3, 150.9, 158.5, 164.1. **Mass:** mass calculated for $C_{30}H_{29}FN_2O_7 + Na^+$ 571.1856, observed mass m/z 571.37 M+ 23(Na).

4. 5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-3'-O,5'-C-methylene-3'-xylo-uridine-2'-O-(2-cyanoethoxy)-

N,*N*-diisopropylphosphoramidite IIb

³¹P NMR (CDCl_{3,50} MHz): δ 150.7, 152.0. Mass: mass calculated for C₄₀H₄₇N₄O₉P

+Na⁺ 781.2978 observed mass m/z 781.23 M+ 23(Na).

5. 5'-O-(4, 4-dimethoxy)trityl-3-deoxy-3-ribofluoro-2-O-(2-cyanoethyl-N,N

diisopropylphosphoramidite) uridine IIIb

³¹P NMR (CDCl₃): δ 151.4, 152.5. Mass: mass calculated for C₃₉H₄₆FN₄O₈P +Na⁺

771.2935, observed mass m/z 771.35 M+ 23(Na).

6. 1-(5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-3'-deoxy-3'-fluoro-2'-cyanoethyl-phosphoramidite-β-Dxylofuranosyl)uracil IVb

³¹P NMR (50MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.4, 153.5. Mass: mass calculated for C₃₉H₄₆FN₄O₈P +Na⁺ 771.2935, observed mass m/z 771.33 M+ 23(Na).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200MHz) Compound IIa



¹³ C NMR (CDCl₃, 50MHz) Compound IIa



Mass spectrum of Compound IIa







¹³ C NMR (CDCl₃, 50MHz) Compound IIIa



Mass spectrum of Compound IIIa











Mass spectrum of Compound IVa



³¹ P NMR (CDCl₃, 50MHz) Compound IIb



Mass spectrum of Compound IIb









Mass spectrum of Compound IIIb

³¹ P NMR (CDCl₃, 50MHz) Compound IVb



Mass spectrum of Compound IVb

















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UV-Melting Study

Melting temperatures were obtained from the maxima of the first derivative of the melting curves (A_{260} vs temperature) in buffer containing 10mM sodium phosphate, 150mM sodium chloride, pH 7.4 using 1.0µM concentrations of each of the two complementary strands. Each experiment was performed at least thrice.

UV-melting plots of complexes of DNA1 with complementary RNA and DNA



UV-melting plots of complexes of DNA1, DNA2 and DNA3 with

complementary RNA



UV-melting plots of complexes of DNA1, DNA4 and DNA5 with complementary RNA



UV-melting plots of complexes of DNA1, DNA6 and DNA7 with complementary RNA







Representative UV-melting and CD plots of Single strand DNA2, Complementary Single strand RNA and Complex of DNA2 with complementary RNA



Wavelength (nm)

Nucleoside derivative	H1'-H2' coupling J in Hz	%S	Reference
3'-Deoxy uridine	1.2	3	15
S-Locked uridine(U ^s)	7.5	94	15
<i>N</i> -Locked uridine(U ^N)	3.5	36	16
3'-ribo-3'-fluoro Uridine(^r U ^F)	7.7	97	17
3'-xylo-3'-fluoro Uridine(^X U ^F)	1.0	0.3	18

Table S1 Conformational analysis of the nucleosides using H1'-H2' coupling constants from ¹H NMR spectra