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**Supporting information** 

# Design, synthesis and properties of artificial nucleic acids from (R)-4-amino-butane-1, 3-diol

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## S1. Synthesis of acetate-nucleobases and acyclic nucleotide analogues.



Scheme S1 Acetate-nucleobases in our work. (A, G, C and T)

Acetate-nucleobases (A, G and C, T is commercially available) are synthesized according to previous reported methods with modifications.<sup>1</sup> NMR data were consistent to those in literature reports.

### (N<sup>6</sup>-benzoyladenin-9-yl) acetic acid (A)

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 11.20 (s, 1 H), 8.74 (s, 1 H), 8.46 (s, 1 H), 8.06 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 7.64 (m, 1 H), 7.54-7.65 (m, 2 H), 5.11 (s, 2 H).

## 2-(4-acetamido-2-oxopyrimidin-1(2H)-yl) acetic acid (C)

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 10.87 (s, 1 H), 8.04 (d, 1 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.17 (d, 1 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 4.54 (s, 2 H), 2.11 (s, 3 H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 170.9, 169.3, 162.8, 155.2, 150.7, 95.0, 50.54, 24.3.

## 2-(2-isobutyramido-6-oxo-1H-purin-9(6H)-yl) acetic acid (G)

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 12.10 (s, 1 H), 11.69 (s, 1 H), 7.99 (s, 1 H), 4.90 (s, 2 H), 2.76 (m, 1 H), 1.10 (d, 6 H, J = 7Hz); C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 180.2, 169.0, 154.8, 148.1, 140.3, 119.5, 44.5 34.7, 27.7, 18.9.

# S2. (S)-3-Amino-1, 2-propanediol nucleic acid modified duplexes<sup>#</sup>



Scheme S2. Synthesis of backbone and monomers of (S)-3-amino-1, 2-propanediol nucleic acid

Entry	Sequence <sup>\$</sup>	Calculated Mw	Measured Mw	
AmpNA-mmp 1	3'- <u>c</u> ACA <u>c</u> CTT <u>g</u> CC <u>a</u> TC <u>g</u> -2'	4545.9	4547.2	
AmpNA-mmp 2	3' <u>-cacaccttgccatcg</u> -2'	4696.0	4697.6	
AmpNA-mmp 3	<u>c</u> ACACCTTGCCATCG	4485.8	4487.0	
AmpNA-mmp 4	CAC <u>a</u> CCTTGCCATCG	4485.8	4487.0	
AmpNA-mmp 5	CACACCT <u>t</u> GCCATCG	4485.8	4487.0	
AmpNA-mmp 6	CACACCTTGCC <u>a</u> TCG	4485.8	4487.0	
AmpNA-mmp 7	CACACCTTGCCATC <u></u>	4485.8	4487.0	

Table S1. Sequences of (S)-3-Amino-1, 2-propanediol nuclei acid ((S)-AmpNA) modified duplex.#

<sup>s</sup> underlined lower case letters represent (S)-3-Amino-1,2-propanediol nuclei acid modified nucleotides and upper case letters represent DNA nucleotides.

<sup>#</sup>Part of data came from published thesis of master student from our laboratory: Meng Su, "Functionalization and Reconstruction of Oligonucleotides", Master Thesis, 2012, Peking University.

#### **S3.** Solid synthesis and evaluation of (R)-Am-BuNA modified oligonucleotides.

#### DNA synthesis, cleavage and purification

DNA oligonucleotides were synthesized on an Applied Biosystems Incorporated 394 synthesizer. The synthesis was carried out on 1 µmol scale. The coupling time and concentration of phosphoramidite monomers for the acyclic nucleotides were the same as those for the natural bases. With a refurbished ABI 394, we set 90s coupling timeand 0.1M concentration for all monomers. Trityl detection showed the same level of incorporation efficiency for acyclic nucleosides as that of natural DNA oligonucleotides with the average step yield over 97%.

After synthesis, fresh concentrated ammonium hydroxide was added to CPGs. The CPGs were shaken for 24 hours at room temperature and then concentrated. The residue was dissolved by small amount of water and was then purified with Waters 320 HPLC on an Eclipse XDB-C18 column (5  $\mu$ M, 9.4×250 mm). Conditions: solvent A, 0.05M TEAA buffer; solvent B, acetonitrile. Started at 0% B; liner gradient 2% B/min, flow rate: 2 mL/min. 80% aqueous acetic acid (500  $\mu$ L) was added to dry oligonucleotides to remove trityl group. The solution was shaken for 30 min at room temperature, and was then concentrated and purified by HPLC. HPLC conditions: started at 0% B; liner gradient 2% B/min, flow rate: 2 mL/min. PAD detector wavelength: 260 nm.

#### Thermal denaturation studies for acyclic-modified oligonucleotides.

The oligonucleotides were mixed in corresponding buffers and ion concentrations. Oligonucleotide solutions were hybridized by first heating at 90 °C for 5 min and then slowly cooled down to room temperature. The melting profiles started with a denaturing run from 25 °C to 85 °C at a rate of 1°C /min. The absorbance at 260 nm was monitored at 0.5 °C intervals on a Beckman Series 800 UV spectrometer (at 295 nm for denaturation of quadruplex). The melting temperatures of the oligonucleotides were determined as the peak of the first derivations of the corresponding melting curves.

#### Enzymatic stability of acyclic-modified oligonucleotides with FBS and SVPDE

Enzymatic stability of the acyclic-modified single-stranded DNA and thrombin-binding DNA aptamer was tested in the presence of fetal bovine serum (FBS) and snake venom phosphodiesterase (SVPDE). The reactions were performed with the oligonucleotide concentrations of 5  $\mu$ M (SVPDE) and 10  $\mu$ M (FBS) oligonucleotide at 37 °C. To the above oligonucleotide solution, proper amount of enzymes was added for oligonucleotide degradation. Aliquots (10  $\mu$ L) were taken at intervals, quenched by the addition of equal volume of 10 mM EDTA aqua on ice bath and kept at -80 °C for further PAGE analysis. Every sample was added 4  $\mu$ L loading buffer (6-fold) before PAGE assay. The mixture was subjected to the gel electrophoresis using 20% native polyacrylamide gel with 1×TBE buffer at 150 V for 40min.

#### **CD** spectra measurement

The samples of oligonucleotides in corresponding buffers and ion concentrations were first annealed. Then CD spectra of the samples were measured at room temperature (298 K) in 0.1cm cuvettes using a Jasco J-810 spectropolarimeter. The wavelength was scanned from 220 to 320 nm with a scanning speed of 200 nm/min for 3 times. The obtained curves were smoothed by the built-in software.

#### Methods for the calculation of thermodynamic parameters of duplex or quadruplex formation

In melting processes of duplexes and quadruplexes, we supposed the existence of folded and unfolded states. The equilibrium constant, K, can be determined by the ratio of two folded and unfolded states  $(K=\theta/(1-\theta))$ . Supposed that  $\theta$  referred to the percentage of duplex in all oligonucleotides, then  $K=(A_{max}-A_n)/(A_n-A_{min})$ . According to Gibbs fundamental equation:  $\Delta G=-RTln(K)=\Delta H-T\Delta S$ , a linear regression with 1/T as x and ln(K) as y was conducted to obtain the slope as  $-(\Delta H/R)$  and vertical intercept as  $(\Delta S/R)$ . Accordingly,  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  can be obtained through the melting profiles. All the parameters were constructed by fitting melting curves in a temperature range of Tm  $\pm 10^{\circ}C$ 



# S4. Van't Hoff plot of (R)-AM-BuNA modified oligonucleotides.













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170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm







































# S6. SI-MS of oligonucleotides in our work.











mmp-5



mmp--6











mmpsn-2





mmpsn-5



TBA-1













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