

L-Ascorbic Acid로부터 2-Deoxy-L-Ribose의 효과적인 합성

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Efficient Synthesis of 2-Deoxy-L-Ribose Starting from L-Ascorbic Acid

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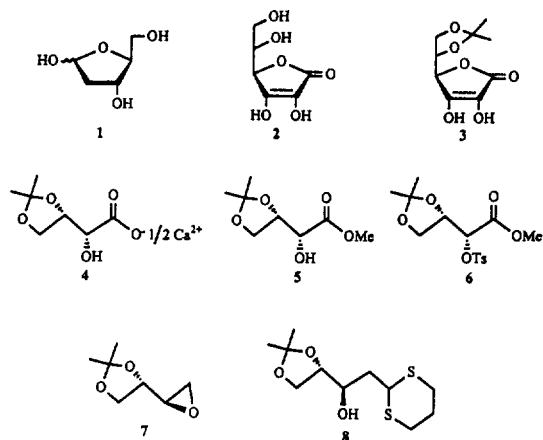
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The chirality of the sugar-backbone units in natural nucleic acids is responsible for the formation of the high-order structure of the nucleic acids and for their functions as well. Organisms on the earth utilize only the D-sugar. Nevertheless, calculations¹ and other studies² suggest that modified nucleic acids based on L-sugar recognize complementary nucleic acids. Furthermore, oligonucleotides composed of 2-deoxy-L-ribose (2-deoxy-L-*erythro*-pentose **1**) show resistance to digestion by certain nucleases²⁻⁴. Enantio-DNA (DNA having 2-deoxy-L-ribose) and meso-DNA (DNA having an alternating sequence of L-sugar and D-sugar) are, therefore, valuable tools for studying protein-DNA interactions and are promising antisense agents⁵⁻⁷. In this regard, there still remains a need for the efficient synthetic method for 2-deoxy-L-ribose. Among a few known methods for the synthesis of **1**⁸⁻¹⁰, only the glycal method developed by Deriaz *et al.*⁹ has been used in practice. Herein we report a new efficient method for the synthesis of compound **1** starting from L-ascorbic acid (**2**).

L-Ascorbic acid (**2**) was converted to 5,6-O-isopropylidene derivative **3** in 95% yield by treatment with acetyl chloride in acetone¹¹. Oxidation of **3** with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of calcium carbonate¹² afforded the threonic acid derivative **4**¹³ in 72% yield. Compound **4** was transformed

into the methyl ester **5**¹³ in 95% yield with methyl iodide and sodium bicarbonate in dimethylacetamide. The secondary hydroxyl group of **5** was tosylated with tosyl chloride and triethylamine in methylene chloride to give compound **6**¹⁴ in 90% yield. The reduction of tosylate **6** with sodium borohydride in methanol and subsequent epoxidation of the resulting 1,2-hydroxytosylate with potassium carbonate were carried out in one pot to afford epoxide **7**¹⁵ in 63% yield. Reaction of compound **7** with lithiated 1,3-dithiane in THF at -40 °C provided white solid **8**¹⁶ in 70% yield. To a solution of thioacetal **8** (0.18 g, 0.68 mmol) in water (16 ml)-acetone (16 ml) was added 1.0 N HCl (1.0 ml) at room temperature. After stirring for 30 min, HgO (0.66 g, 3.04 mmol) and HgCl₂ (0.80 g, 2.96 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture and the stirring continued for further 2 h at 40°C. The reaction mixture was filtered and acetone was removed *in vacuo*. To the remaining aqueous solution was added Na₂S (0.86 g, 3.56 mmol) and precipitated HgS was removed. The volume of aqueous solution was reduced to a half by freeze-drying. Isopropyl alcohol (20 ml) was added to the aqueous solution and precipitated sodium chloride was removed by filtration. The filtrate was evaporated to give a pale yellow syrup which was crystallized in vacuum after one week. Recrystallization of the



crude crystal from ethyl acetate gave pure 2-deoxy-L-ribose (**1**, 0.06 g, 70%)¹⁷. The overall yield of the present procedure is 18%. The present method is superior over Deriaz's glycol method⁹ at least in two aspects: the overall yield and the cost of the starting material.

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- Compound **6**: mp. 56–58 °C; ¹H NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.22 (s, 6H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.88–3.92 (m, 2H), 4.28–4.48 (m, 1H), 4.75–4.81 (d, 1H), 7.19–7.81 (2d, 4H).
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- Compound **8**: mp. 71 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H), 1.17–2.10 (m, 4H), 2.21 (s, 1H), 2.76–2.84 (m, 5H), 3.85–4.03 (m, 3H), 4.19–4.24 (m, 1H).
- Compound **1**: mp. 89 °C (lit.⁹ 90 °C); [α]_D +55.0° (c 0.27, H₂O) (lit.⁹ +58°); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.64–2.50 (m, 2H), 3.57–4.42 (m, 4H), 5.30–5.65 (m, 1H).