Effect of the nature of protecting group at O-4 on stereoselectivity of glycosylation by 4-O-substituted 2,3-di-*O*-benzylfucosyl bromides

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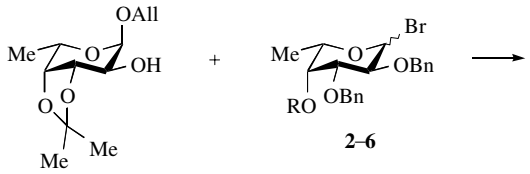
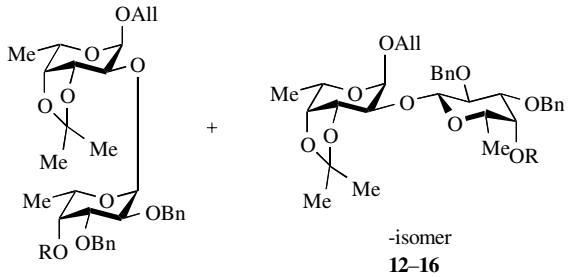
The effect of the nature of the substituent at O-4 on the stereoselectivity of glycosylation by 2,3-di-*O*-benzylfucosyl bromides was studied by direct chemical experiments and computer modelling.

Within the synthesis of fucoidan fragments[1] we performed glycosylation of acetonide **1** by 2,3-di-O-benzylated L-fucosyl bromides **2** and **3** with benzyl and benzoyl protecting groups at O-4 (Scheme 1). In case of 4-O-benzoylated bromide **3** glycosylation was more stereoselective than in case of **2** (Table 1). Similar data on the stereoselectivity of fucosylation were reported before,[2,3] but the origin of the dependence of the stereoselectivity of fucosylation on the structure of fucosyl donor remains unclear.





All = $CH_2CH{=}CH_2$

R	bromide	-isomer	-isomer
Bn	**2**	**7**	**12**
Bz	**3**	**8**	**13**
p-$NO_2C_6H_4CO$	**4**	**9**	**14**
p-$MeOC_6H_4CO$	**5**	**10**	**15**
$AcNHCH_2CO$	**6**	**11**	**16**

Scheme 1

To explain the predominance of the -product in case of glycosylation by **3** we supposed the formation of intermediate cation II (Scheme 2), in which the carbonyl group of benzoate provides intramolecular 'stabilisation' of the cationic centre. Cation II is hindered from the -side for a nucleophilic attack leading to the formation of the -glycoside product.

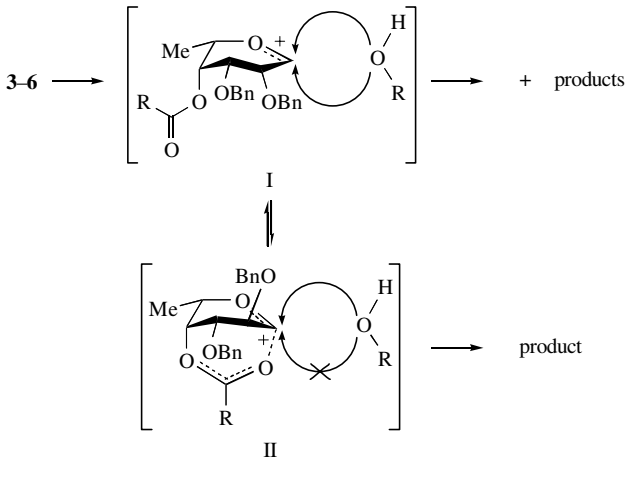
To evaluate the ability of the substituent at O-4 in fucosyl bromide **3** to 'stabilise' the cationic centre at C-1, the difference (*E*) between the total energy of 'non-stabilised' glycosyl cation I and 'stabilised' glycosyl cation II was calculated using the MM+ force field.[4] Partial charges were calculated on the AM1 level[5] of approximation. Both molecular-mechanics and semi-empirical calculations were performed using the HyperChem software[†] (version 5.02). The starting conformations of cations I and II were built using standard geometric parameters and setting the torsion angle H(4)–C(4)–O(4)–C equal to 0° for cation I and to 180° for cation II. The total geometry optimisation was performed using the Polak–Ribie re conjugate gradient algorithm until the gradient value reached 0.1 kcal mol^{-1} $Å^{-1}$. The *E* value for 4-O-benzylated compound **2** (Table 1) was close to zero, but it was positive for 4-benzoate **3**, thus confirming the stabilisation hypothesis and explaining the difference in the stereoselectivities of fucosylation by bromides **2** and **3**. Note that all glycosylation reactions were performed in CH_2Cl_2,[‡] which solvates all mentioned cations in a similar manner. This permitted us to neglect solvation effects in the calculations.

Table 1 The ratios between - and -disaccharide products in the glycosylation of acceptor **1** with bromides **2–6** (Scheme 2) and the *E* values for corresponding cations of type II.

Fucosyl bromide	Substituent at O-4	*E*/kcal mol^{-1}	- and - disaccharide products	Ratio between - and - products
2	Bn	0.1	**7** and **12**	1:1[a]
3	Bz	3.6	**8** and **13**	3.5:1[a]
4	*p*-$NO_2C_6H_4CO$	2.1	**9** and **14**	2:1
5	*p*-$MeOC_6H_4CO$	4.7	**10** and **15**	5:1
6	$AcNHCH_2CO$	1.6 (19.3[b])	**11** and **16**	2:1

[a]Experimental ratios of : isomers were determined by integration of respective ^1H signals of Fuc residues at the 'non-reducing' end. [b] *E* value for intermediate III.

To elucidate in more details the stabilising effect of protecting group at O-4, which favours the -selectivity of fucosylation, we also calculated *E* for cations with *p*-nitrobenzoyl, *p*-methoxybenzoyl and *N*-acetylaminoacetyl groups at O-4. The *E* values for *p*-nitrobenzoate **4** and 4-*O*-(*N*-acetylaminoacetyl) derivative **6** (Table 1) were lower than that for benzoylated compound **3**. On the contrary, the *E* value for *p*-methoxybenzoate **5** was higher than that for benzoate **3**. According to these calculation data, we expected that the -selectivity of fucosylation should decrease in the order **5** > **3** > **4** > **6** > **2**. These results were later



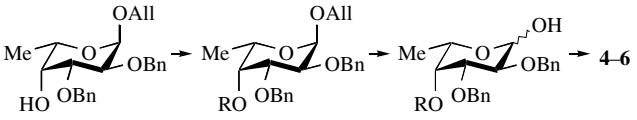
Scheme 2

[†] HyperChem™, Hypercube, Inc., 1115 NW 4th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601, USA.

Table 2 ^{1}H NMR data[a] for monosaccharides **17**–**23** and disaccharides **9**–**11** and **14**–**16**.

Compound	Fucose residue[b]	Chemical shifts, δ/ppm						Coupling constants,[e] *J*/Hz			
		1-H	2-H	3-H	4-H	5-H	6-H	$J_{1,2}$	$J_{2,3}$	$J_{3,4}$	$J_{5,6}$
9	R	4.99	3.87	4.39	4.09	n/d[c]	1.05–1.50[d]	3.5	7.9	5.7	n/d
	N	5.02	3.86	4.28	5.68	4.53	1.05–1.50[d]	3.5	9.9	3.1	n/d
10	R	4.98	3.86	4.38	4.09	n/d	1.05–1.50[d]	3.1	7.9	5.5	n/d
	N	5.01	3.91	4.25	5.66	4.48	1.05–1.50[d]	3.5	10.0	3.2	n/d
11	R	4.94	3.82	4.34	4.03	n/d	1.05–1.50[d]	2.9	7.7	5.2	n/d
	N	5.01	3.71	4.12	5.31	4.39	1.05–1.50[d]	3.2	10.0	3.0	n/d
14	R	5.09	3.91	4.45	4.09	n/d	1.05–1.50[d]	3.2	8.0	5.1	n/d
	N	4.81	3.69–3.74		4.54	3.76	1.05–1.50[d]	6.5	n/d	2.9	n/d
15	R	5.11	3.90	4.45	4.09	n/d	1.05–1.50[d]	3.9	7.5	5.1	n/d
	N	4.75	3.65	3.75	5.58	3.72	1.05–1.50[d]	7.1	7.1	3.2	n/d
16	R	5.08	3.88	4.40	4.03	n/d	1.05–1.50[d]	3.1	8.5	4.9	n/d
	N	4.74	3.60–3.63		5.46	3.62	1.05–1.50[d]	6.9	n/d	3.5	n/d
17		4.85	3.81	4.05	3.79	n/d	1.20	3.9	9.5	3.1	6.0
18		4.95	3.89	4.13	5.65	4.25	1.19	3.5	9.5	3.5	7.5
19		4.95	3.93	4.12	5.62	4.21	1.20	3.9	9.1	3.0	6.0
20		n/d	3.83	4.07	5.52	4.16	1.20	4.0	10.0	3.9	6.8
21		5.35	3.87	4.10	5.65	4.42	1.22	3.2	10.0	3.4	6.9
		n/d	3.65	3.71	5.59	3.82	1.31	7.4	9.8	3.1	6.3
22		5.28	3.89	4.01	5.58	4.31	1.18	3.6	10.0	2.9	6.5
		5.24	4.09	3.63	5.51	3.73	1.21	n/d	7.8	2.8	6.0
23		5.23	4.06	3.76	5.48	4.33	1.15	3.5	9.0	4.0	6.7
		n/d	3.48	3.73	5.43	3.84	1.25	8.0	9.5	3.1	6.7

[a]NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-300 instrument (300 MHz) in $CDCl_3$ at 303 K. Assignment was performed by 2D ^{1}H–^{1}H correlation spectroscopy. [b]R is the 'reducing' end (*i.e.*, a fucose residue attached to allyl aglycon), N is the 'non-reducing' end (*i.e.*, a fucose residue attached to fucose aglycon). [c]n/d = not determined. [d]Signals of 6-H in all Fuc residues in the specta of mixtures of disaccharide pairs (**9**,**14**), (**10**,**15**) and (**11**,**16**) were not assigned because of overlapping. [e]For all compounds, $J_{4,5} < 1$ Hz.

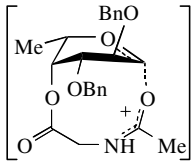


17

All = $CH_2CH{=}CH_2$

R		
p-$NO_2C_6H_4CO$	**18**	**21**
p-$MeOC_6H_4CO$	**19**	**22**
$AcNHCH_2CO$	**20**	**23**

Scheme 3



III

‡ *Preparation of bromides* **4**–**6**. Esters **18** {$[\alpha]_D$ –134° (*c* 2, $CHCl_3$)} and **19** {$[\alpha]_D$ –162° (*c* 1, $CHCl_3$)} were prepared in 80–90% yields by acylation of compound **7** (1 mmol) with a corresponding acylchloride (4 mmol) in 40 mmol of pyridine in the presence of a catalytic amount of *N*,*N*-dimethylaminopyridine. Amide **20** {$[\alpha]_D$ –62° (*c* 1, $CHCl_3$)} was obtained in 75% yield by reaction of **7** with equimolar amounts of *sym* anhydride of *N*-acetylglycine and *N*,*N*-dimethylaminopyridine. Deallylation of esters **18**–**20** in the presence of $PdCl_2$ (0.4 mmol) in methanol gave semiacetals **21**–**23** with 75–80% yields. The bromination with CBr_4 and Ph_3P (1.1 mmol each) in 5 ml of boiling methylene chloride resulted in formation of bromides **4**–**6** in almost quantitative yields. Fucosyl bromides were used directly in glycosylation reactions without special purification.

Glycosylation with bromides **2**–**6** (*typical procedure*). A solution of 1 mmol of acetonide **1**, 1.5 mmol of $Hg(CN)_2$, 100–200 mg of $HgBr_2$ and 1.4 g of molecular sieves 4 Å were stirred for 1 h at room temperature under Ar, and a solution of 1.5 mmol of a corresponding fucosyl bromide was added portionwise within 1 h at room temperature. The mixture was additionally stirred for 24 h at room temperature, then filtered through Celite, diluted with CH_2Cl_2, washed with saturated aqueous KBr and $NaHCO_3$ solutions, filtered through cotton wool and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was subjected to flash column chromatography to separate a mixed fraction of - and -disaccharide products. The ratio between the products was determined from the ^{1}H NMR spectra (Tables 1 and 2). The anomeric configurations of Fuc residues in disaccharides **7**–**16** at the 'non-reduced' end were confirmed by characteristic values of $J_{1,2}$, which were 3–3.5 Hz for -anomers and 7–7.5 Hz for -anomers.

proven experimentally by chemical glycosylations (Table 1), except for the coincidence of stereochemical outcomes in glycosylations with compounds **4** and **6**.

For compound **6** which comprises a carbonyl of the amido group along with the ester carbonyl, the hypothetical intermediate III can also be expected in addition to cation II. The *E* value for III is higher (Table 1) than that for ester-stabilised cations of the type II.

Taking into account too high *E* value for intermediate III, we can expect high -stereoselectivity of fucosylation with bromide **6**. However, the ratio between - and -disaccharides in the glycosylation with bromide **6** was as low as 2:1. This result argues that the glycosylation proceeds preferentially *via* cation II rather than cation III.

In conclusion, the data obtained show the mechanism of the influence of the substitutent at O-4 on the -stereoselectivity of glycosylation by 2,3-di-*O*-benzylfucosyl donors. Molecular-mechanics calculations according to the described procedure can be successfully applied to the estimation of the stereoselectivity of glycosylation.

This work was supported by the President of the Russian Federation (grant no. 96-15-96991) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (grant nos. 97-03-33037a and 98-03-33025a).

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Received: 18th November 1998; Com. 98/1400 (8/09455A)