Synthesis and incorporation of a furan-modified adenosine building block for DNA interstrand crosslinking

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Supporting Information

General Methods

Chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification. Solvents CH₂Cl₂, acetonitrile, THF, Et₂O and toluene were obtained dry from a MBRAUN SPS-800 solvent purification system, CH₃OH was distilled from magnesium and iodine. All other solvents were purchased from standard chemical suppliers and were distilled under N₂-atmosphere from CaH₂. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel-coated plates (Merck 60 F254) with the indicated solvent mixture, visualization was done using ultraviolet (UV) irradiation (λ = 260 nm) and/or staining with KMnO₄. Purification by chromatography was carried out using Silicycle silica gel (0.040 – 0.063 mm, and ca. 6 nm pore diameter). ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Inova 400 (400 MHz), ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DMX300 (75 MHz) spectrometer, ³¹P NMR spectra was recorded on a Bruker DMX300 (121 MHz) spectrometer using 85% H₃PO₄ as an external standard.

RP-HPLC analysis and purification was performed on an Agilent 1200 system equipped with a Phenomenex Clarity column (4.6 mm, 5mm) using the following gradient: 0% MeOH (2 min), 0-30% MeOH (17 min), 30-100% MeOH (20 min), 100% MeOH (27 min), 100-0% MeOH (28 min) and 0% MeOH (33 min).

ESI-MS analysis was carried out on a quadrupole ion trap LC mass spectrometer (Thermofinnigan, San Jose, Ca, USA) equipped with electrospray ionisation (negative mode).

Synthesis



2'-O-(1-Propyn-3-yl)adenosine (2)

Adenosine (5 g, 18.72 mmol) was dissolved in hot (50°C) anhydrous DMF (200 mL) under an inert atmosphere. The solution was cooled down to 5 °C, and NaH (1 g, 25 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) was added, followed by the addition of TBAI (1.5 g, 4.06 mmol) and propargyl bromide (2.12 mL, 20.92 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 2 days at 55 °C, and adsorbed on silica gel. Flash-chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 93:7), gave a mixture of 2'-*O*- and 3'-*O*-propargylated products. Selective crystallization from anhydrous ethanol yielded the title compound (2.56 g, 45%) as pale yellow crystals. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.35 (br s, 2H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (m, 1H), 5.34 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (m, 1H), 4.37 (m,

1H), 4.24 (m, 2H), 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.69-3.52 (m, 2H), 3.32 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 156.2, 152.5, 149.0, 139.7, 119.3, 86.6, 85.9, 79.7, 77.6, 68.9, 61.5, 56.9. HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₅N₅O₄ (M+H⁺) 306.1202, found 306.1197.



2'-O-(1-Propyn-3-yl)-6-N-benzoyladenosine (3)

2'-O-(1-Propyn-5-yl)adenosine **2** (1.4 g, 4.59 mmol) was coevaporated twice with anhydrous pyridine and dissolved in pyridine (20 mL) followed by the addition of trimethylsilyl chloride (2.4 mL, 18.9 mmol). After 30 min, benzoyl chloride (0.7 mL, 6.0 mmol) was added and stirring was continued for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled down to 0 °C and diluted with H₂O (10 mL). Subsequently, the reaction mixture was treated with an aqueous concentrated NH₃-solution (15 mL) and stirred for 20 min at room temperature. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 25 mL), the organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to dryness. Flash-chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 95:5), gave the desired compound (1.73 g, 92%) as a colorless foam. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.19 (s, 1H), 8.74 (s, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.04-7.53 (m, 5H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (m, 1H), 4.72 (m, 1H), 4.39 (m, 1H), 4.29 (m, 2H), 4.01 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.58 (m, 2H), 3.30 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.8, 152.0, 151.7, 150.4, 143.0, 133.2, 132.5, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 125.6, 86.4, 85.6, 80.0, 79.6, 77.5, 68.8, 61.2, 57.1. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₁₉N₅O₅ (M+H⁺) 410.1464, found 410.1454.



2'-O-(3-(Furan-2-yl)-propyn-3-yl)-6-N-benzoyladenosine (4)

A mixture of 2'-*O*-(1-propyn-3-yl)-6-*N*-benzoyladenosine **3** (300 mg, 0.73 mmol), 2-iodofuran (240 mg, 1.24 mmol), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (24 mg, 0.034 mmol) and CuI (18 mg, 0.095 mmol) in triethylamine and DMF (5 mL, 1:1) was stirred in a microwave at 55 °C (60 W) for 30 min after which the solvent was evaporated and the crude mixture purified by flash chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 95:5), furnishing the coupled product (329 mg, 94 %) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.15 (s, 1H), 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.04-7.50 (m, 6H), 6.66 (m, 1H), 6.47 (m, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (m, 1H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 4.60 (m, 2H), 4.39 (m, 1H), 4.0 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.55 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.6, 152.0, 151.6, 150.5, 145.0, 143.1, 135.1, 133.3, 132.5, 128.5, 125.8, 116.3, 111.3, 90.2, 86.4, 85.8, 80.0, 76.5, 68.8, 61.2, 57.7. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₁N₅O₆ (M+H⁺) 476.1570, found 476.1566.



2'-O-(3-(Furan-2-yl)-propyl)-6-N-benzoyladenosine (5)

A solution of 2'-*O*-(3-(furan-2-yl)-propyn-3-yl)-6-N-benzoyladenosine **4** (250 mg, 0.526 mmol) in MeOH (15 mL) was passed through the H-Cube cartridge (Thalesnano) containing 10% Pd/C, at 20 bar, 30 °C for 15 min (1 mL/min). The reaction mixture was concentrated to dryness and subjected to flash chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 95:5), giving the desired compound (235 mg, 93%) as a pale yellow foam. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.22 (br s, 1H), 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.06-7.54 (m, 5H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 6.28 (m, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (m, 1H), 5.27 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (m, 1H), 4.53 (m, 1H), 4.36 (m, 1H), 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.71-3.42 (m, 4H), 2.58 (m, 2H), 1.77 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.6, 155.0, 152.1, 151.7, 150.5, 143.0, 141.2, 133.3, 132.4, 128.5, 125.8, 110.2, 105.0, 86.2, 85.7, 81.1, 68.9, 61.1, 27.7, 23.8. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₅N₅O₆ (M+H⁺) 480.1883, found 480.1869.



5'-O-(4,4'-Dimethoxytriphenylmethyl)-2'-O-(3-(furan-2-yl)-propyl)-6-N-benzoyladenosine (6)

2'-O-(3-(Furan-2-yl)-propyl)-6-N-benzoyladenosine **5** (200 mg, 0.42 mmol) was coevaporated three times with anhydrous pyridine and then dissolved in pyridine (5 mL), followed by the addition of DMTrCl (190 mg, 0.56 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at room temperature, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and poured into a 2% aqueous NaHCO₃ (15 mL) solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 15 mL), the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in *vacuo*. Flash chromatography (acetone /CH₂Cl₂, 15:85) afforded the title compound (250 mg, 77%) as a colorless foam. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.23 (b s, 1H), 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.61 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.27 (m, 7H), 6.85 (m, 4H), 6.28 (m, 1H), 6.19 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (m, 1H), 5.30 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (m, 1H), 4.45 (m, 1H), 4.15 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 6H), 3.69 (m, 1H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.28 (m, 2H), 2.60 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.6, 158.0, 155.0, 152.0, 151.6, 150.5, 144.8, 143.3, 141.2, 135.6, 135.4, 133.3, 132.4, 129.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 126.6, 125.9, 113.1, 110.2, 105.0, 86.3, 85.5, 83.8, 80.1, 69.1, 69.0, 63.5, 55.0, 27.7, 23.8. HRMS calcd for C₄₅H₄₃N₅O₈ (M+H⁺) 782.3189, found 782.3153.



5'-*O*-(4,4'-Dimethoxytriphenylmethyl)-2'-*O*-(3-(furan-2-yl)-propyl)-6-*N*-benzoyladenosine-3'-O-(2-cyanoethyl N, N-diisopropylphosphoramidite) (7)

To a solution of **6** (100 mg, 0.128 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) were subsequently added DIPEA (28 μ L, 0.16 μ mol) and 2-cyanoethyl N, N-diisopropylphosphoramidochloridite (38 μ L, 0.17 μ mol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h under inert atmosphere, diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL) and 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (5 mL). Extraction was performed with CH_2Cl_2 (2 x 15 mL), the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (acetone/ CH_2Cl_2 , 1:9) to give 7 (115.5 mg, 92%) as a colorless foam. ³¹P NMR (121 MHz CDCl₃) 157.1, 156.4. HRMS calcd for C₅₄H₆₀N₇O₉P (M+H⁺) 982.4268, found 982.4242.

DNA synthesis and purification

All oligonucleotides were synthesized DMT-on on an ABI 394 DNA synthesizer on 1 μ mol scale. A standard synthesis protocol was used except for the modified residues. For the manual couplings, a 0.05 M solution of the phosphoramidite in acetonitrile and a 0.1 M solution of dicyanoimidazole (DCI) in acetonitrile were dried on molecular sieves for about 10 min. Then the phosphoramidite solution (0.4 ml) and the DCI solution (0.5 ml) were mixed and pushed over the reaction column. The column was placed back on the DNA-synthesizer and automated synthesis was resumed.

ONs were cleaved from solid support and deprotected by incubation at 55 °C overnight in concentrated ammonia. DMT groups were removed with 1.5% aqueous TFA during Seppak C18 cartridge purification using standard protocols. Subsequently, synthesized ONs were analyzed via RP-HPLC.







Melting experiments

Complementary ONs were purchased from Eurogentec Liege (see Table 1 for specific sequences). All UV experiments were performed on a Varian Cary 300 Bio equipped with a six-cell thermostatted cell holder. Melting curves were recorded from 20 °C to 95 °C at 260 nm with a heating rate of 0.3 °C/min. Samples were prepared taking 1.8 nmol of each strand, 90 μ L each of 0.1 M phosphate buffer and 1 M NaCl in nanopure water (total volume 900 μ L). Melting temperatures were calculated from the first derivative of the heating curves using Cary 300 Bio software (Table 1).

CA [*] C	А	С	G	Т	T A [*] T	А	С	G	Т
UNMODIFIED	40.5	43.6	50.4	57.2	UNMODIFIED	33.7	35.1	41.6	46.8
MODIFIED	36.3	40.7	43.8	52.3	MODIFIED	28.8	32.2	32.0	40.8
$\Delta T_{\rm m}$ (°C)	-4.2	-2.9	-6.6	-4.9	$\Delta T_{\rm m}$ (°C)	-4.9	-2.9	-9.6	-6.0
AA^*A	А	С	G	Т	GA^*G	А	С	G	Т
UNMODIFIED	35.5	35.5	36.6	49.9	UNMODIFIED	41.0	38.5	45.1	54.8
MODIFIED	33.9	34.3	33.7	46.4	MODIFIED	42.7	43.6	43.4	52.2
$\Delta T_{\rm m}$ (°C)	-1.6	-0.9	-2.9	-3.5	$\Delta T_{\rm m}(^{\circ}{\rm C})$	1.7	5.1	-1.7	-2.6

Table 1. Melting temperatures of oligonucleotides **8-11**, paired opposite to A, C, T and G in an unmodified sequence 5'-d(GCAGAXYXTCAG) where X is identical to canonicals complementary to the modified strand and Y is A, C, T or G. $A^* =$ furan-modified adenosine.

Crosslinking experiments

The modified strands were mixed with the respective complements in equimolar amounts in 0.01 M phosphate buffer (pH 7) and 0.1 M NaCl to obtain a final concentration of 20 μ M in oligonucleotides. Mixtures were annealed by heating to 90 °C for 5 minutes and cooling down to 25 °C. Temperature during the crosslink reaction was kept constant in an Eppendorf thermomixer comfort at 25 °C. A stock solution of NIS (1 equiv./ μ L) was freshly prepared and 2 μ L was added every 30 mins. A total of 3 additions were done. The reaction was monitored by RP-HPLC and by PAGE (polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis) as shown below.

For each HPLC analysis, a 2 μ L sample of the crosslink mixture was diluted to 18 μ L, of which 15 μ L is injected. Crosslinking (XL) yields based on HPLC were calculated by comparing the peak area from the spectra before and after addition of NIS, taking into account the extinction coefficients calculated by the nearest neighbor method. The extinction coefficient of the crosslinked duplex is taken to be 0.9 times the sum of the extinction coefficients of its composing sequences.

DUPLEX	XL Yield (%)	DUPLEX	XL Yield (%)
8 • 12	27	10 • 18	15
8 • 13	9	10 • 19	9
9 • 16	39	11 • 20	17
9 • 17	16	11 • 21	8

With NBS:



With NIS (remainder of HPLC-traces):







5'-d(CTGACGCA^{*}CTGC)3' (8)





5'-d(CTGACGTA^{*}TTGC)3' (9)





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Gel-electrophoresis experiments

A 20% polyacrylamide (acrylamide: bisacrylamide 19:1) with 1 x TBE buffer and 7 M urea was used for all analyses. The power supply used for gel-electrophoresis was a consort EV202. Samples were prepared mixing 2 µL probe with 2 µL loading buffer and run at 300 V, 25 °C, 1.2 h. Gels were stained with GelRed (VWR) and pictures were taken with an Autochemi imaging system (UVP).



- a) $5'-d(CTGACGTA*TTGC)3'(9) \cdot 3'-d(GACTGCAXAACG)5'$, where X = A, C, T and G
- b) 5'-d(CTGACGAA*ATGC)3' (10) 3'-d(GACTGCTXTACG)5', where X = A, C, T and G
 c) 5'-d(CTGACGGA*GTGC)3' (11) 3'-d(GACTGCCXCACG)5', where X = A, C, T and G

ESI-MS analysis

For a representative RP-HPLC experiment (8:13 vide supra) fraction collection of all formed species was carried out. ESI-MS analysis confirmed the crosslinked nature of the signal at $t_r = 18.158$ min. MW of the Na adduct of $C_{238}H_{303}N_{93}O_{143}P_{22}$: Calcd = 7458; Obsd = 7456.

NMR spectra of compounds 2-7.



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