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PROCESSES FOR THE DIASTEREOSELECTIVE
SYNTHESIS OF NUCLEOSIDES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

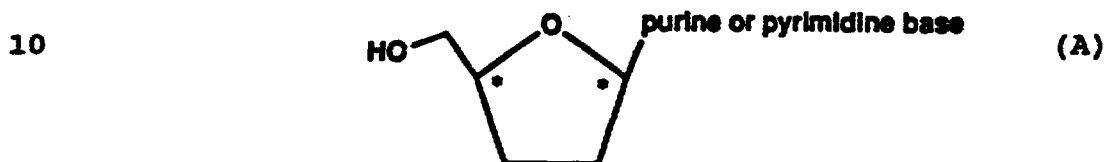
5 The present invention relates to
diastereoselective processes for preparing optically
active *cis*-nucleosides and nucleoside analogues and
derivatives. The novel processes of this invention
allow the stereo-controlled synthesis of a given
10 enantiomer of a desired *cis*-nucleoside or nucleoside
analogue or derivative in high optical purity. This
invention also relates to novel intermediates useful in
the processes of this invention.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Nucleosides and their analogues and
derivatives are an important class of therapeutic
agents. For example, a number of nucleosides have
shown antiviral activity against retroviruses such as
human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus
20 (HBV) and human T-lymphotropic virus (HTLV) (PCT
publication WO 89/04662 and European Patent publication
0349242 A2). Among the nucleosides shown to have
antiviral activity are 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine
(AZT), 2'3'-dideoxy-cytidine (DDC), 2-hydroxymethyl-5-
25 (cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane and 2-hydroxymethyl-4-
(guanine-9'-yl)-1,3-dioxolane (European Patent

publication 0382526 A2 and European Patent publication 0377713 A2).

Most nucleosides and nucleoside analogues and derivatives contain at least two chiral centers (shown as * in formula (A)), and exist in the form of two pairs of optical isomers (i.e., two in the *cis*-configuration and two in the *trans*-configuration). However, generally only the *cis*-isomers exhibit useful biological activity.



Different enantiomeric forms of the same *cis*-nucleoside may, however, have very different antiviral activities. M.M. Mansuri et al., "Preparation Of The Geometric Isomers Of DDC, DDA, D4C and D4T As Potential Anti-HIV Agents", Bioorg.Med.Chem. Lett., 1 (1), pp. 65-68 (1991). Therefore, a general and economically attractive stereoselective synthesis of the enantiomers of the biologically active *cis*-nucleosides is an important goal.

20 Many of the known processes for producing optically active nucleosides and their analogues and derivatives modify naturally occurring (i.e., optically active) nucleosides by altering the base or by altering the sugar via reductive procedures such as

25 deoxygenation or radical initiated reductions. C.K. Chu et al., "General Synthesis Of 2',3'-Dideoxynucleosides And 2',3'-Didehydro-2',3'-Dideoxynucleosides," J.Org.Chem., 54, pp. 2217-2225 (1989). These transformations involve multiple steps,

30 including protection and deprotection and usually

result in low yields. Moreover, they begin with and maintain the optical activity of the starting nucleoside. Thus, the nucleosides produced by these processes are limited to specific analogues of the enantiomeric form of the naturally occurring nucleoside. In addition, these procedures require the availability of the naturally occurring nucleoside, often an expensive starting material.

Other known processes for producing optically active nucleosides rely on conventional glycosylation procedures to add the sugar to the base. These procedures invariably give anomeric mixtures of *cis*- and *trans*-isomers which require tedious separation and result in lower yields of the desired biologically active *cis*-nucleoside. Improved glycosylation methods designed to yield only the *cis*-nucleoside require addition of a 2'- or 3'-substituent to the sugar. Because the 2'- or 3'-substituent is only useful in controlling *cis*-nucleoside synthesis in one configuration (when the 2' or 3' substituent is *trans*- to the 4' substituent), multiple steps are required to introduce this substituent in the proper configuration. The 2'- or 3'-substituent must then be removed after glycosylation, requiring additional steps. L. Wilson and D. Liotta, "A General Method For Controlling Stereochemistry In The Synthesis Of 2'-Deoxyribose Nucleosides", Tetrahedron Lett., 31, pp. 1815-1818 (1990). Furthermore, to obtain an optically pure nucleoside product, the starting sugar must be optically pure. This also requires a series of time-consuming syntheses and purification steps.

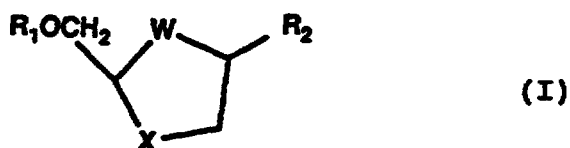
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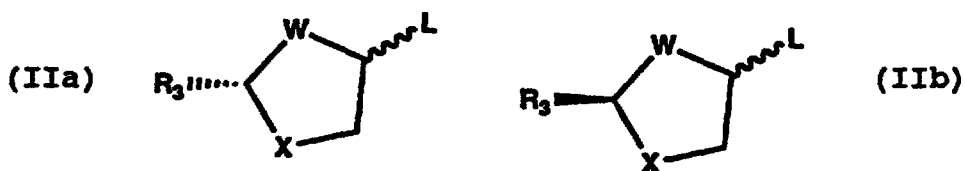
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention overcomes the difficulties and shortcomings of the prior art and provides processes for producing optically active *cis*-nucleosides (1,3-oxathiolanes, 2,4-dioxolanes, and 1,3-dithiolanes) or nucleoside analogues and derivatives of formula (I)

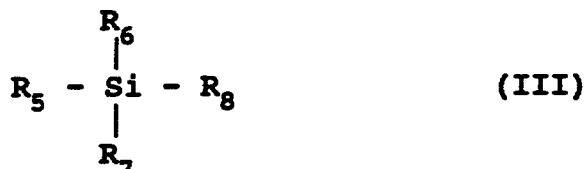


- wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 10 X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 R₁ is hydrogen or acyl; and
 R₂ is a purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue or derivative thereof.

The processes of this invention comprise the step of glycosylating a desired purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative thereof with an intermediate of formula (IIa) or (IIb)



- wherein R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative and L is a leaving group. Glycosylation is accomplished using a Lewis acid of the formula (III)



5 wherein R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 are defined below and the resulting intermediate is reduced to give a nucleoside or nucleoside analogue or derivative of formula (I).

The processes of this invention have the
10 advantages of allowing preparation of a nucleoside of formula (I) (or analogues or derivatives thereof) without using expensive starting materials, cumbersome protection and deprotection steps or addition and removal of 2'- or 3'-substituents. The processes of
15 this invention produce nucleosides in high yields, with high purity and high optical specificity. The processes of this invention have the further advantage of generating nucleosides whose stereoisomeric configuration can be easily controlled simply by the
20 selection of the appropriate starting materials.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the processes for preparing optically active compounds of this invention in a configurational- and diastereo-selective manner, the
25 following definitions are used:

R_2 is a purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue or derivative thereof.

A purine or pyrimidine base is a purine or pyrimidine base found in naturally occurring
30 nucleosides. An analogue thereof is a base which mimics such naturally occurring bases in that their structures (the kinds of atoms and their arrangement) are similar to the naturally occurring bases but may either possess additional or lack certain of the
35 functional properties of the naturally occurring bases.

Such analogues include those derived by replacement of a CH moiety by a nitrogen atom, e.g., 5-azapyrimidines such as 5-azacytosine) or vice versa (e.g., 7-deazapurines, such as 7-deazaadenine or 7-deazaguanine) or both (e.g., 7-deaza, 8-azapurines). By derivatives of such bases or analogues are meant those bases wherein ring substituents are either incorporated, removed, or modified by conventional substituents known in the art, e.g., halogen, hydroxyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkyl. Such purine or pyrimidine bases, analogues and derivatives are well known to those skilled in the art.

A "nucleoside analogue or derivative" is a 1,3-oxathiolane, 2,4-dioxolane or 1,3-dithiolane which has been modified in any of the following or combinations of the following ways: base modifications, such as addition of a substituent (e.g., 5-fluorocytosine) or replacement of one group by an isosteric group (e.g., 7-deazaadenine); sugar modifications, such as substitution of the C-2 and C-3 hydroxyl groups by any substituent, including hydrogen (e.g., 2',3'-dideoxynucleosides); alteration of the site of attachment of the sugar to the base (e.g., pyrimidine bases usually attached to the sugar at the N-1 site may be, for example, attached at the N-3 or C-6 site and purines usually attached at the N-9 site may be, for example, attached at N-7); alteration of the site of attachment of the base to the sugar (e.g., the base may be attached to the sugar at C-2, such as iso-DDA); or alteration of configuration of the sugar-base linkage (e.g., *cis* or *trans* configurations).

R₃ is a carbonyl substituted with hydrogen, hydroxyl, trialkylsilyl, trialkylsiloxy, C₁₋₃₀ alkyl, C₇₋₃₀ aralkyl, C₁₋₃₀ alkoxy, C₁₋₃₀ amine (primary,

secondary or tertiary), C₁₋₃₀ thiol; C₆₋₂₀ aryl; C₁₋₂₀ alkenyl; C₁₋₂₀ alkynyl; 1,2-dicarbonyl, such as

5 $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \quad \text{O} \\ \parallel \quad \parallel \\ \text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{C}- \end{array}$ substituted with C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₆₋₂₀ aryl; anhydrides

such as $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \quad \text{O} \\ \parallel \quad \parallel \\ \text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}- \end{array}$ substituted with C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₆₋₂₀ aryl; azomethine substituted at nitrogen with hydrogen, C₁₋₂₀ alkyl or C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy or C₁₋₁₀ dialkylamino or at carbon with hydrogen, C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, or C₁₋₂₀ alkoxy; thiocarbonyl (C=S) substituted with hydroxyl, C₁₋₂₀ alkoxy, or C₁₋₂₀ thiol; a homologue of carbonyl, e.g.,

15 $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ -\text{CCH}_2- \end{array}$; a homologue of thiocarbonyl, e.g., $\begin{array}{c} \text{S} \\ \parallel \\ -\text{CCH}_2- \end{array}$; or a

20 homologue of azomethine, such as $\begin{array}{c} \text{N}- \\ \parallel \\ -\text{CCH}_2- \end{array}$.

The preferred substituted carbonyl/carbonyl derivatives are alkoxy-carbonyls, such as methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, t-butyl and menthyl; carboxyls, diethylcarboxamide; pyrrolidine amide; methyl ketone and phenyl ketone. The more preferred substituted carbonyl/carbonyl derivatives are esters and carboxyls and the most preferred are esters.

R₄ is a chiral auxiliary. The term "chiral auxiliary" describes asymmetric molecules that are used to effect the chemical resolution of a racemic mixture. Such chiral auxiliaries may possess one chiral center such as methylbenzylamine or several chiral centers such as menthol. The purpose of the chiral auxiliary, once built into the starting material, is to allow simple separation of the resulting diastereomeric mixture. See, for example, J. Jacques et al.,



Enantiomers, Racemates And Resolutions, pp. 251-369,
John Wiley & Sons, New York (1981).

R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are independently selected from
the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-20} alkyl (e.g.,
5 methyl, ethyl, t-butyl), optionally substituted by
halogens (F, Cl, Br, I), C_{6-20} alkoxy (e.g., methoxy) or
 C_{6-20} aryloxy (e.g., phenoxy); C_{7-20} aralkyl (e.g.,
benzyl), optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-20} alkyl
or C_{1-20} alkoxy (e.g., p-methoxybenzyl); C_{6-20} aryl
10 (e.g., phenyl), optionally substituted by halogens,
 C_{1-20} alkyl or C_{1-20} alkoxy; trialkylsilyl; halogens (F,
Cl, Br, I).

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of
halogen (F, Cl, Br, I); C_{1-20} sulphonate esters,
15 optionally substituted by halogens (e.g.,
trifluoromethane sulphonate); C_{1-20} alkyl esters,
optionally substituted by halogen (e.g.,
trifluoroacetate); polyvalent halides (e.g.,
triiodide); trisubstituted silyl groups of the general
20 formula $(R_5)(R_6)(R_7)Si$ (wherein R_5 , R_6 , and R_7 are as
defined above); saturated or unsaturated selenenyl
 C_{6-20} aryl; substituted or unsubstituted
 C_{6-20} arylsulfenyl; substituted or unsubstituted
 C_{1-20} alkoxyalkyl; and trialkylsiloxo.

25 L is a "leaving group", i.e., an atom or a
group which is displaceable upon reaction with an
appropriate purine or pyrimidine base, with or without
the presence of a Lewis acid. Suitable leaving groups
include acyloxy groups, alkoxy groups, e.g., alkoxy
30 carbonyl groups such as ethoxy carbonyl; halogens such
as iodine, bromine, chlorine, or fluorine; amido;
azido; isocyanato; substituted or unsubstituted,
saturated or unsaturated thiolates, such as thiomethyl
or thiophenyl; substituted or unsubstituted, saturated

or unsaturated seleno, seleninyl, or selenonyl compounds, such as phenyl selenide or alkyl selenide.

A suitable leaving group may also be -OR, where R is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or
5 unsaturated alkyl group, e.g., C₁₋₆ alkyl or alkenyl group; a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic or aromatic acyl group, e.g., a C₁₋₆ aliphatic acyl group such as acetyl and a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic acyl group such as benzoyl; a substituted or
10 unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated alkoxy or aryloxy carbonyl group, such as methyl carbonate and phenyl carbonate; substituted or unsubstituted sulphonyl imidazolidine; substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic or aromatic amino carbonyl group, such as
15 phenyl carbamate; substituted or unsubstituted alkyl imide group such as trichloroacetamide; substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated phosphonate, such as diethylphosphonate; substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic or aromatic sulphonyl or
20 sulphonyl group, such as tosylate; or hydrogen.

As used in this application, the term "alkyl" represents a substituted (by a halogen, hydroxyl or C₆₋₂₀ aryl) or unsubstituted straight chain, branched chain, or cyclic hydrocarbon moiety having 1 to 30
25 carbon atoms and preferably, from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

The terms "alkenyl" and "alkynyl" represent substituted (by a halogen, hydroxyl or C₆₋₂₀ aryl) or unsubstituted straight, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon chains having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and preferably from
30 1 to 5 carbon atoms and containing at least one unsaturated group (e.g., allyl).

The term "alkoxy" represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group containing from 1 to 30 carbon atoms and preferably from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
35 wherein the alkyl group is covalently bonded to an

adjacent element through an oxygen atom (e.g., methoxy and ethoxy).

The term "amine" represents alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or aralkyl groups containing from 1 to 30 carbon atoms and preferably 1 to 12 carbon atoms, covalently bonded to an adjacent element through a nitrogen atom (e.g., pyrrolidine). They include primary, secondary and tertiary amines and quaternary ammonium salts.

10 The term "thiol" represents alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups containing from 1 to 30 carbon atoms and preferably from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, covalently bonded to an adjacent element through a sulfur atom (e.g., thiomethyl).

15 The term "aryl" represents a carbocyclic moiety which may be substituted by at least one heteroatom (e.g., N, O, or S) and containing at least one benzenoid-type ring and preferably containing from 6 to 15 carbon atoms (e.g., phenyl and naphthyl).

20 The term "aralkyl" represents an aryl group attached to the adjacent atom by an alkyl (e.g., benzyl).

 The term "alkoxyalkyl" represents an alkoxy group attached to the adjacent group by an alkyl group (e.g., methoxymethyl).

25 The term "aryloxy" represents a substituted (by a halogen, trifluoromethyl or C_{1-5} alkoxy) or unsubstituted aryl moiety covalently bonded through an oxygen atom (e.g., phenoxy).

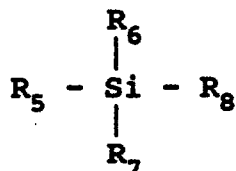
30 The term "acyl" refers to a radical derived from a carboxylic acid, substituted (by a halogen (F, Cl, Br, I), C_{6-20} aryl or C_{1-6} alkyl) or unsubstituted, by replacement of the -OH group. Like the acid to which it is related, an acyl radical may be aliphatic or aromatic, substituted (by a halogen, C_{1-5}

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alkoxyalkyl, nitro or O₂) or unsubstituted, and whatever the structure of the rest of the molecule may be, the properties of the functional group remain essentially the same (e.g., acetyl, propionyl, isobutanoyl, pivaloyl, hexanoyl, trifluoroacetyl, chloroacetyl, and cyclohexanoyl).

A key feature of the processes of this invention is the use of a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative as R₃ instead of a protected hydroxymethyl group as previously described in the art. Surprisingly, the substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative is not cleaved by exposure to a Lewis acid, as would have been expected by one of skill in the art when a Lewis acid of formula (III) is added to a mixture of silylated purine or pyrimidine base and the chiral auxiliary-sugar compound obtained in Step 3. Instead, the substituted carbonyl/carbonyl derivative in the intermediate of formula (VI) forces the purine or pyrimidine base (R₂) to add in the *cis*-configuration relative to the substituted carbonyl/carbonyl derivative group. Without a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative attached to C4' (for example, when a hydroxymethyl group is instead used), the coupling procedures described in Step 4 will result in a mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-isomers.

Another key feature of the processes of this invention is the choice of Lewis acid. The Lewis acids used in the preparation of compounds of formula (I) have the general formula (III)



wherein R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 are as defined previously. These Lewis acids may be generated in situ or prepared using any method known in the art (e.g., A.H. Schmidt, "Bromotrimethylsilane and Iodotrimethylsilane-Versatile
5 Reagents for Organic Synthesis", Aldrichimica Acta, 14, pp. 31-38 (1981). The preferred Lewis acids of this invention are iodotrimethylsilane and trimethylsilyl triflate. The preferred R_5 , R_6 and R_7 groups are methyl or iodine. The most preferred R_5 , R_6 and R_7 group is
10 methyl. The preferred R_8 groups are iodine, chlorine, bromine or sulphonate esters. The most preferred R_8 groups are iodine and trifluoromethane sulphonate.

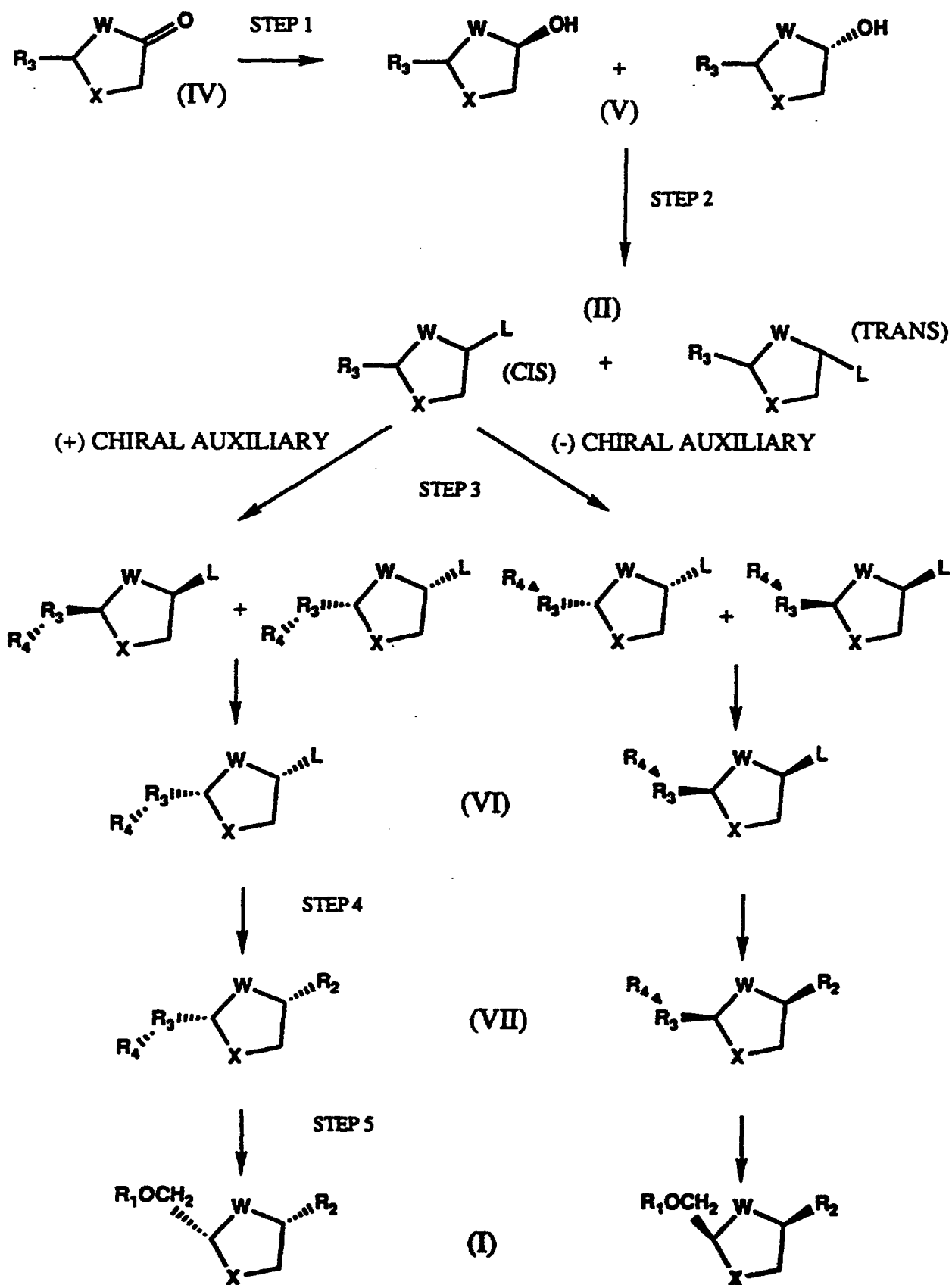
In the preferred process of this invention, illustrated in Schemes 1 and 2, *cis*- and *trans*-isomers
15 of a sugar of formula (II)



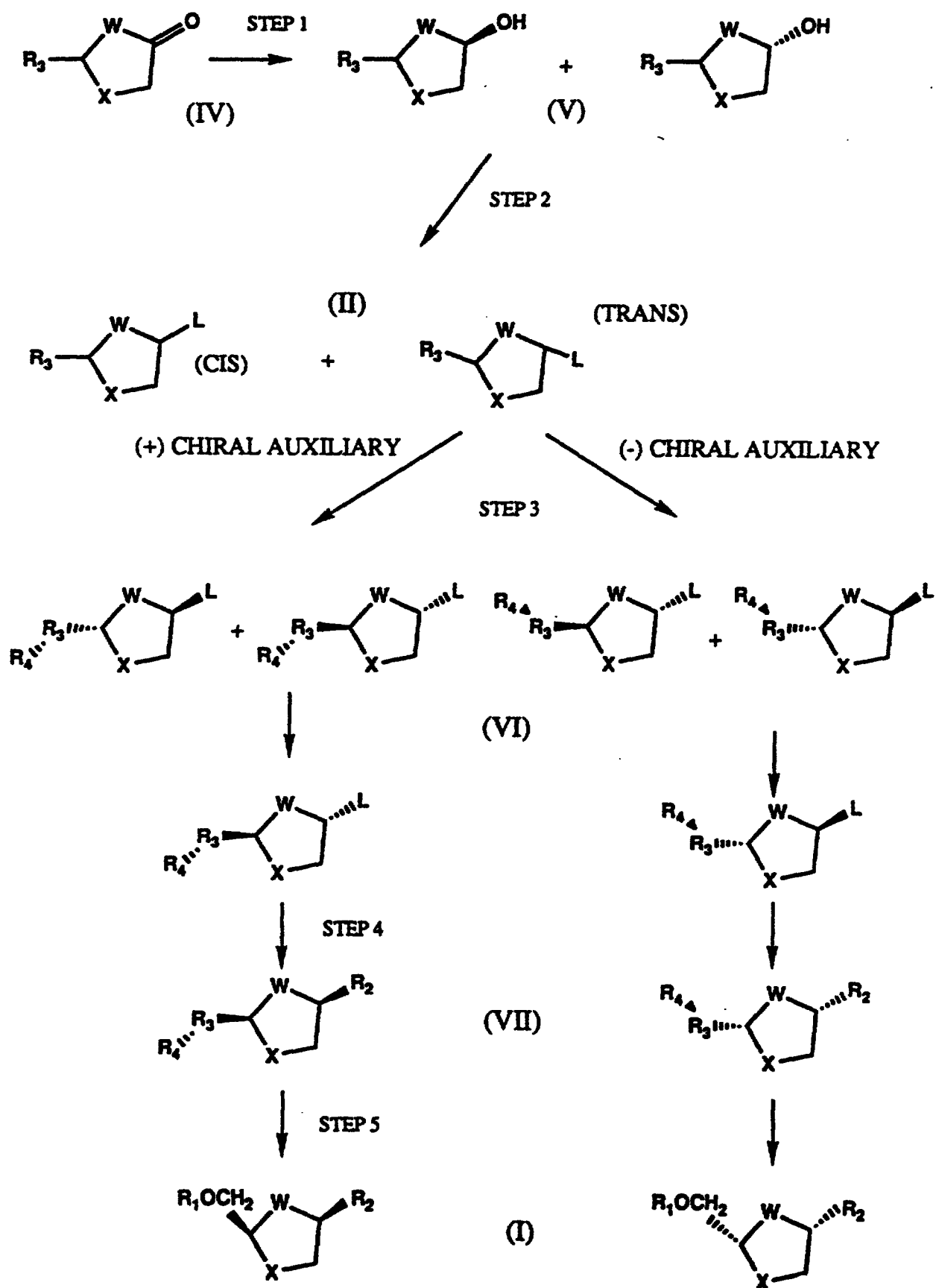
are separated by fractional crystallization and the desired configurational isomer selected. The selected *cis*- or the *trans*-isomer may then be resolved
20 chemically, e.g., using a chiral auxiliary, enzymatically, or by other methods known in the art. The pure diastereomer is then coupled to a silylated purine or pyrimidine base in the presence of a Lewis acid to afford an optically active nucleoside of *cis*-
25 configuration which is subsequently reduced to give a nucleoside of formula (I).

Schemes 1A and 1B depict this preferred process as applied to any 1,3-oxathiolane, 2,4-dioxolane or 1,3-dithiolane.

SCHEME 1A



SCHEME 1B



The various steps as illustrated in Schemes 1A and 1B may be briefly described as follows:

Step 1: The starting carbonyl-sugar of formula (IV) can be prepared by any method known in the art. E.g., J.M. McIntosh et al., "2-Mercaptoaldehyde Dimers and 2,5-Dihydrothiophenes from 1,3-oxathiolan-5-ones", Can. J. Chem., 61, pp. 1872-1875 (1983). The carbonyl group of this starting compound is reduced chemoselectively with a suitable reducing agent, such as disiamylborane to give the *cis*- and *trans*-isomers of formula (V). Ordinarily, less *cis*-isomer is produced than *trans*.

Step 2: The hydroxyl group in the intermediate of formula (V) is readily converted to a leaving group by any method known in the art (e.g., T.W. Greene Protective Groups In Organic Synthesis, pp. 50-72, John Wiley & Sons, New York (1981)) to give the novel intermediates of formula (II).

This anomeric mixture is then separated by fractional crystallization into the two configurational isomers. The solvent may be adjusted to select for either the *cis*- or *trans*-isomer. D.J. Pasto and C.R. Johnson, Organic Structure Determination, pp. 7-10, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey (1969).

Step 3: Either the *cis*- (Scheme 1A) or *trans*-isomer (Scheme 1B) of formula (II) is chemically resolved using a chiral auxiliary (R_4). A suitable chiral auxiliary is one of high optical purity and where the mirror image is readily available, such as *d*- and *l*-menthol. The resulting diastereomers of formula (VI) are easily separated by fractional crystallization. Alternatively, either the *cis*- or the *trans*-isomer may be resolved enzymatically or by other methods known in the art. Jacques et al., Enantiomers,

Racemates And Resolutions, pp. 251-369, John Wiley & Sons, New York (1981).

The optical purity of the diastereomer (VI, VII or I) can be determined by chiral HPLC methods, specific rotation measurements and NMR techniques. As
5 a general rule, if the opposite enantiomer is desired, it may be obtained by using the mirror image of the chiral auxiliary initially employed. For example, if the chiral auxiliary d-menthol produces a (+)-
10 enantiomer nucleoside, its mirror image, l-menthol, will produce the (-)-enantiomer.

Step 4: A previously silylated (or silylated in situ) purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative thereof is then glycosylated
15 with the resulting pure diastereomer in the presence of a Lewis acid of formula (III), such as iodotrimethylsilane (TMSI) or trimethylsilyl triflate (TMSOTf), to give a nucleoside of *cis*-configuration of formula (VII). This nucleoside is optically active and
20 is substantially free of the corresponding *trans*-isomer (i.e., it contains less than 20%, preferably no more than 10% and more preferably no more than 5% of the *trans*-isomer).

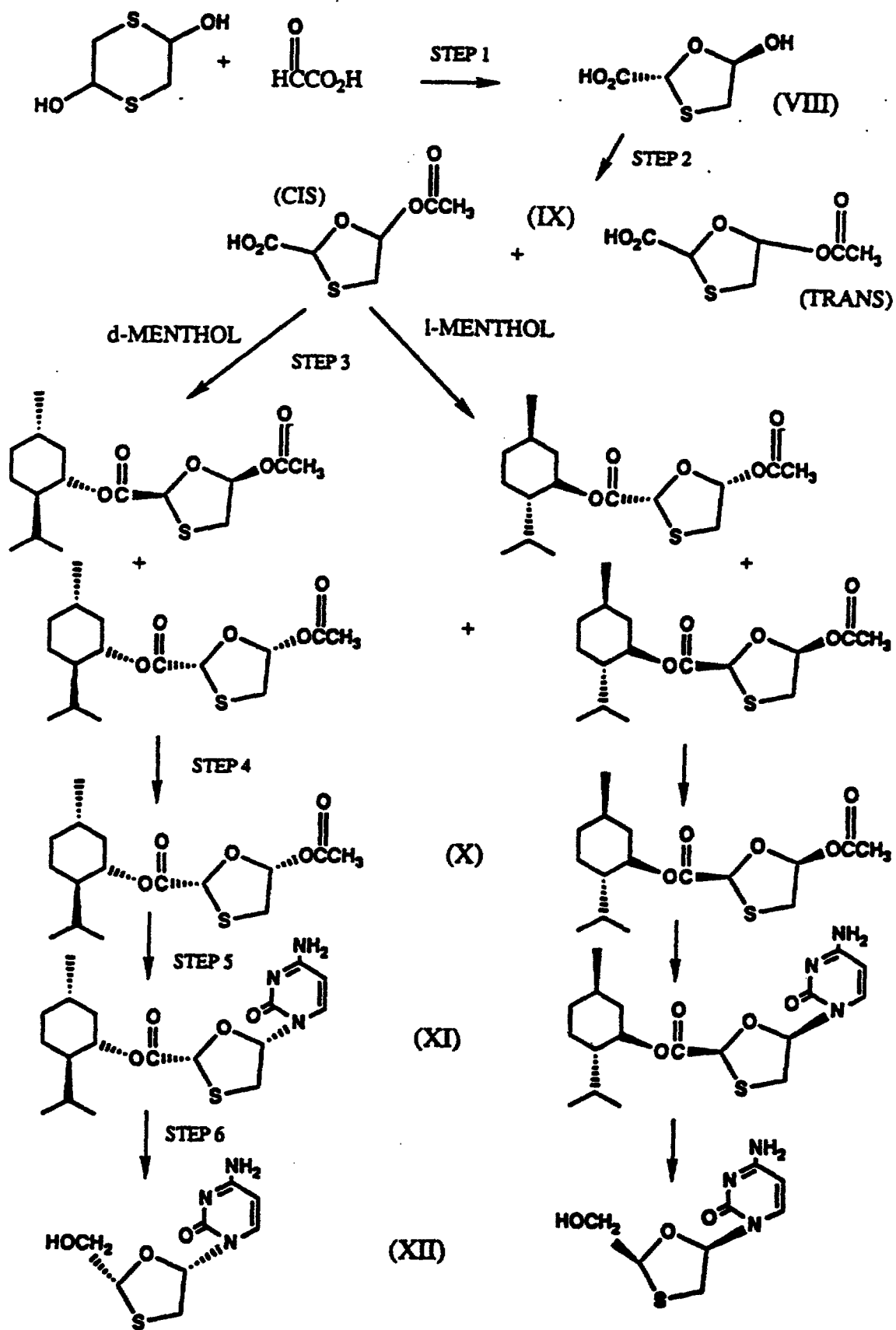
The preferred silylating agent for pyrimidine
25 bases are *t*-butyldimethylsilyl triflate 1,1,1,3,3,3 hexamethyldisilazane and trimethylsilyl triflate. It is believed that the bulky *t*-butyl group increases yields by weakening the interaction between the Lewis acid and silylated pyrimidine base.

30 The preferred method of mixing reagents in Step 4 is to first add the chiral auxiliary-sugar of formula (VI) to the silylated purine or pyrimidine base. The Lewis acid of formula (III) is then added to the mixture.

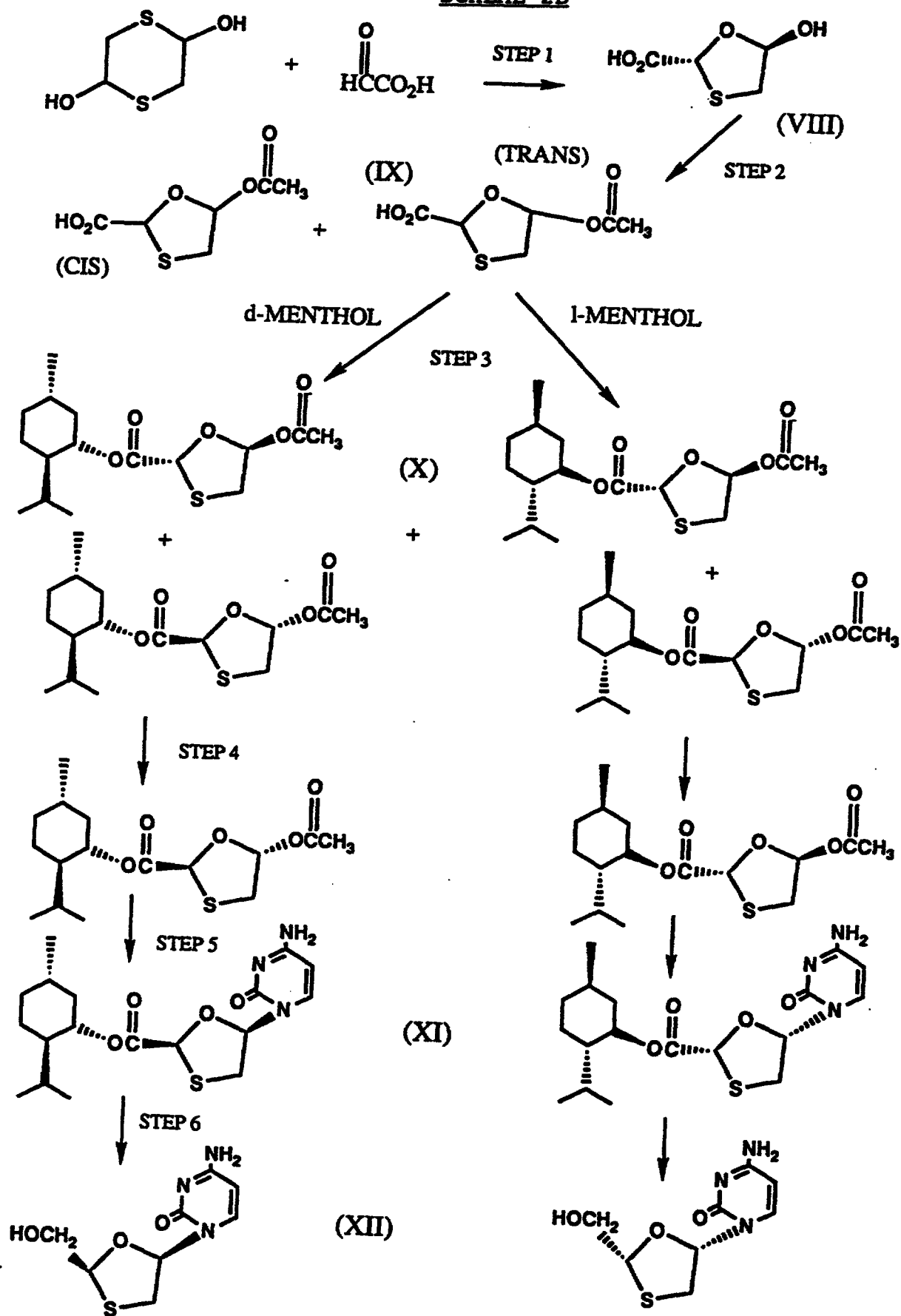
Step 5: The *cis*-nucleoside obtained in Step 4 may then be reduced with an appropriate reducing agent to remove the chiral auxiliary and give a specific stereoisomer of formula (I). The absolute configuration of this stereoisomer corresponds to that of the nucleoside intermediate of formula (VII). As shown in Scheme 1, either the *cis*- (Scheme 1A) or the *trans*-isomers (Scheme 1B) obtained in Step 2 will yield a *cis* end product.

10 Schemes 2A and 2B illustrate the application of the process of Schemes 1A and 1B to the synthesis of the enantiomers of *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolanes. Although this process is illustrated using specific reagents and starting materials, it will be appreciated by one of skill in the art that suitable analogous reactants and starting materials may be used to prepare analogous compounds.

SCHEME 2A



SCHEME 2B



The various steps illustrated in Schemes 2A and 2B may be briefly described as follows:

Step 1: A mercaptoacetaldehyde monomer, preferably produced from a dimer, such as 2,5-dihydroxy-1,4-dithiane, in an appropriate solvent (preferably t-butylmethyl ether) is reacted with glyoxylic acid to give exclusively the *trans*-hydroxy acid of formula (VIII).

Step 2: The acid of formula (VIII) is reacted with an acid chloride, such as acetyl chloride in the presence of pyridine and an acylation catalyst, such as 4-dimethylaminopyridine, or preferably with an acid anhydride such as acetic anhydride in the presence of acetic acid and an acylation catalyst, such as sulfuric acid, to give a diastereomeric mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-acetoxy acids of formula (IX).

The racemic diastereomeric acid mixture obtained in Step 2 is fractionally crystallized using any combination of solvents (preferably benzene and ether) to give exclusively either the *cis*- or the *trans*-acetoxy acid of formula (IX) each as a racemic mixture.

Step 3: Either the *cis*- or the *trans*-acetoxy acid of formula (IX) is reacted with an appropriate chiral auxiliary preferably, 1-menthol or d-menthol, in a suitable organic solvent, such as dichloromethane, using an activating agent, such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, and an esterification catalyst, such as 4-dimethylaminopyridine, to give a diastereomeric mixture of the *cis*- or *trans*-esters respectively.

Alternatively, the compound of formula (IX) may be converted to an acid chloride by any means known in the art, such as with oxalyl chloride in an appropriate solvent, e.g., dichloromethane or N₁N-dimethylformamide. The acid chloride is then reacted

with a chiral auxiliary in a suitable organic solvent using an esterification catalyst.

Step 4: The above diastereomeric mixture of either the *cis*- or the *trans*-esters is fractionally
5 crystallized using any combination of solvents (preferably ether and petroleum ether (40-60°C)) preferably at low temperature to give exclusively the *cis*- or the *trans*-acetoxy menthyl ester of formula (X), respectively.

10 Step 5: Either the *cis*- or the *trans*-acetoxy compound of formula (X) is reacted with cytosine or other purine or pyrimidine base or analogue thereof. The purine or pyrimidine base or analogue is preferably previously silylated with hexamethyldisilazane or more
15 preferably silylated in situ with *t*-butyldimethylsilyl triflate in a compatible organic solvent, such as dichloromethane containing a hindered base preferably 2,4,6-collidine. A Lewis acid of formula (III), preferably iodotrimethylsilane or trimethylsilyl
20 triflate, is then added to give the *cis*-compound of formula (XI) in a highly diastereoselective manner.

Step 6: The optically active *cis*-nucleoside of formula (XI) is reduced stereospecifically with a reducing agent preferably lithium triethylborohydride
25 or more preferably lithium aluminum hydride in an appropriate solvent such as tetrahydrofuran or diethyl ether to give the compound of formula (XII) and menthol.

A second process for the diastereoselective
30 synthesis of compounds of formula (I) is illustrated by Schemes 3A and 3B and 4A and 4B. In the process of Schemes 3A and 3B carbonyl-sugar with an R_3 substituent at C4' is reacted with a chiral auxiliary (R_4) to give a diastereomeric mixture of two optically active chiral

auxiliary sugars. The actual diastereomer produced depends on whether the (+) or (-) chiral auxiliary is used. This optically active mixture may be chemoselectively reduced and the resulting hydroxyl group converted to a leaving group to afford a diastereomeric mixture of four chiral auxiliary-sugars, two in the *cis*- configuration and two in the *trans*- configuration (Scheme 3B). Subsequent fractional crystallization gives a single diastereomer.

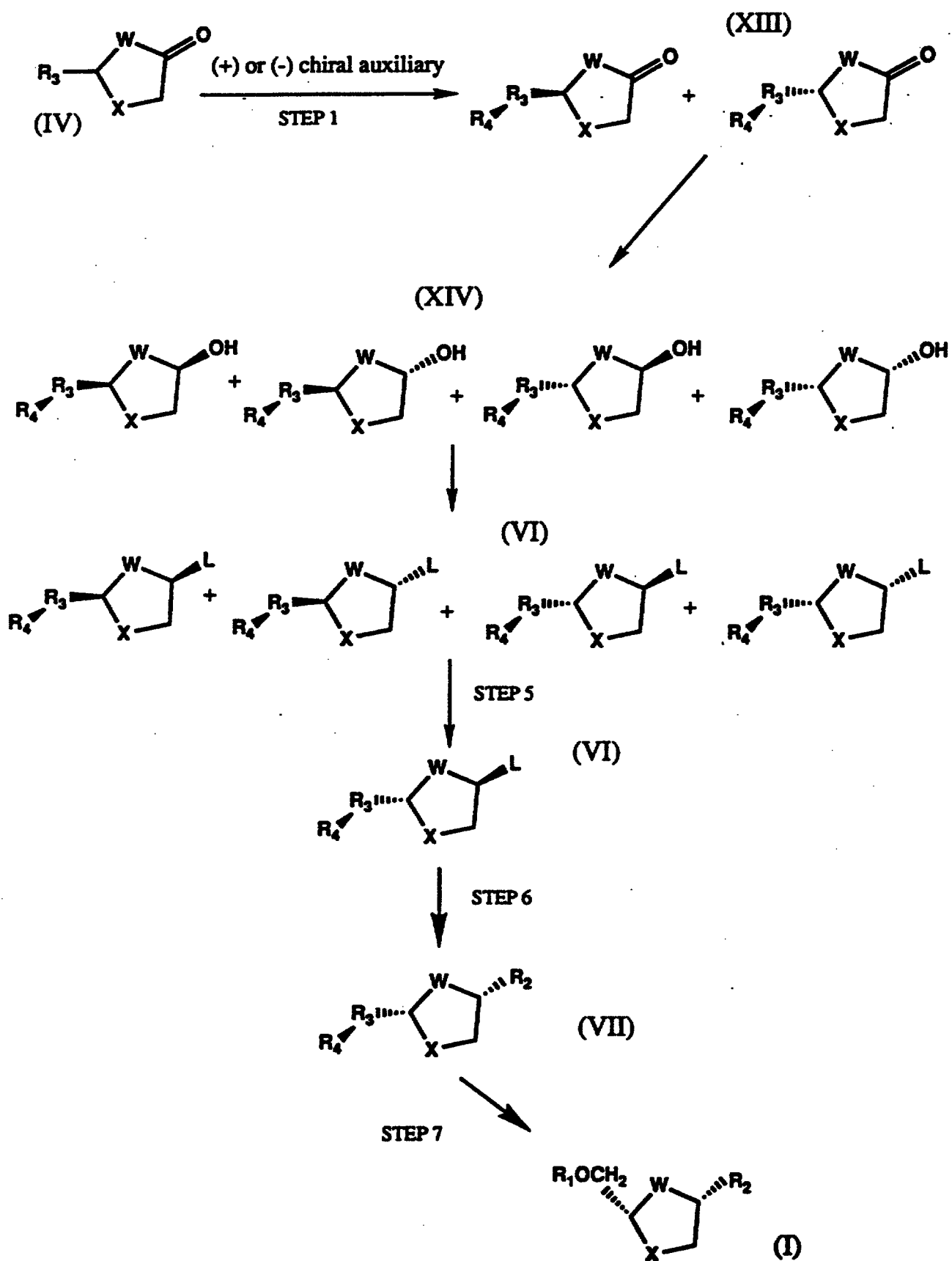
10 Alternatively, the optically active mixture of chiral auxiliary-sugars may first be separated by chromatography or fractional crystallization and then reduced and the resulting hydroxyl group converted to a leaving group (Scheme 3A). Subsequent fractional
15 crystallization yields any desired diastereomer. The solvent may be adjusted to select for either the *cis*- or the *trans*-isomer. Each isolated optically active diastereomer may be carried on further to compounds of formula (I) in a manner analogous to that described in
20 Schemes 1 and 2.

Schemes 3A and 3B depict the second process of this invention as applied to any 1,3-oxathiolane, 2,4-dioxolane or 1,3-dithiolane.

SCHEME 3A



SCHEME 3B



The various steps involved in the synthesis of the nucleosides of formula (I) as depicted in Schemes 3A may be briefly described as follows:

Step 1: The starting material of formula (IV), prepared by any method known in the art, is reacted with a chiral auxiliary (see, e.g., T.W. Greene, "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", John Wiley and Sons, New York (1981) to yield a mixture of two diastereomers of formula (XIII). The particular mixture produced will depend on which chiral auxiliary (+ or -) is used.

Step 2: The mixture of two diastereomers of formula (XIII) is separated by fractional crystallization or chromatography to yield one diastereomer of formula (XIII).

Step 3: The single isomer of formula (XIII) is chemoselectively reduced by a suitable reducing agent, such as disiamylborane to give a mixture of two diastereomers of formula (XIV).

Step 4: The hydroxyl groups of the two diastereomers of formula (XIV) are converted to leaving groups by any method known in the art to give a mixture of two diastereomers of formula (VI).

Step 5: Either the *cis*- or *trans*-isomer is separated out of the mixture of two diastereomers of formula (VI), as obtained in Step 4, by fractional crystallization or chromatography. The solvent may be adjusted to select for the *cis*- or *trans*-isomer.

Step 6: The single diastereomer of formula (VI) is reacted with previously silylated (or silylated in situ) purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative. Then, addition of a Lewis acid of formula (III), such as iodotrimethylsilane (TMSI) or trimethylsilyl triflate (TMSOTf) yields a nucleoside of

cis-configuration of formula (VII). This nucleoside is substantially free of the corresponding *trans*-isomer.

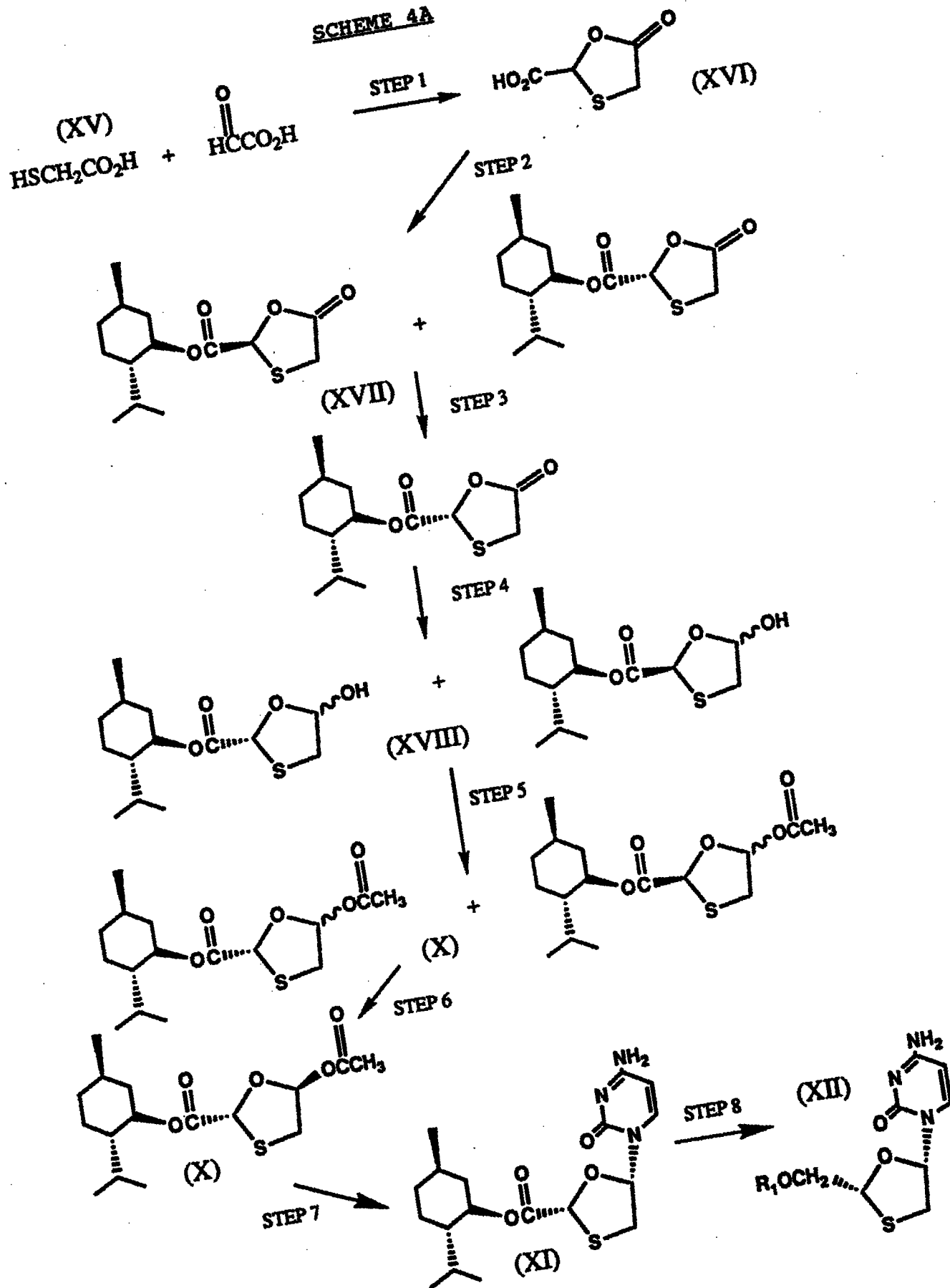
Step 7: The optically active *cis*-nucleoside of formula (VII) is reduced stereospecifically with a
5 reducing agent preferably lithium triethylborohydride or more preferably lithium aluminum hydride in an appropriate solvent such as tetrahydrofuran or diethyl ether to give the compound of formula (I) and menthol.

Alternatively, as shown in Scheme 3B, the
10 mixture of diastereomers of formula (XIII) is chemoselectively reduced with a suitable reducing agent, such as disiamylborane to give a mixture of four diastereomers of formula (XIV). The hydroxyl groups in this mixture of four diastereomers of formula (XIV) are
15 converted to leaving groups any method in the art to afford a mixture of four diastereomers of formula (VI). Either a *cis*- or a *trans*-isomer of formula (VI) is separated out of the mixture of four diastereomers of formula (VI) by fractional crystallization or
20 chromatography. The solvent may be adjusted to select for a *cis*- or *trans*-isomer. The single diastereomer of formula (VI) is reacted with previously silylated (or silylated in situ) purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative. Then, addition of a Lewis acid
25 of formula (III), such as iodotrimethylsilane (TMSI) or trimethylsilyl triflate (TMSOTf) affords a nucleoside of *cis*- configuration of formula (VII) which is reduced with an appropriate reducing agent to give a specific stereoisomer of formula (I).

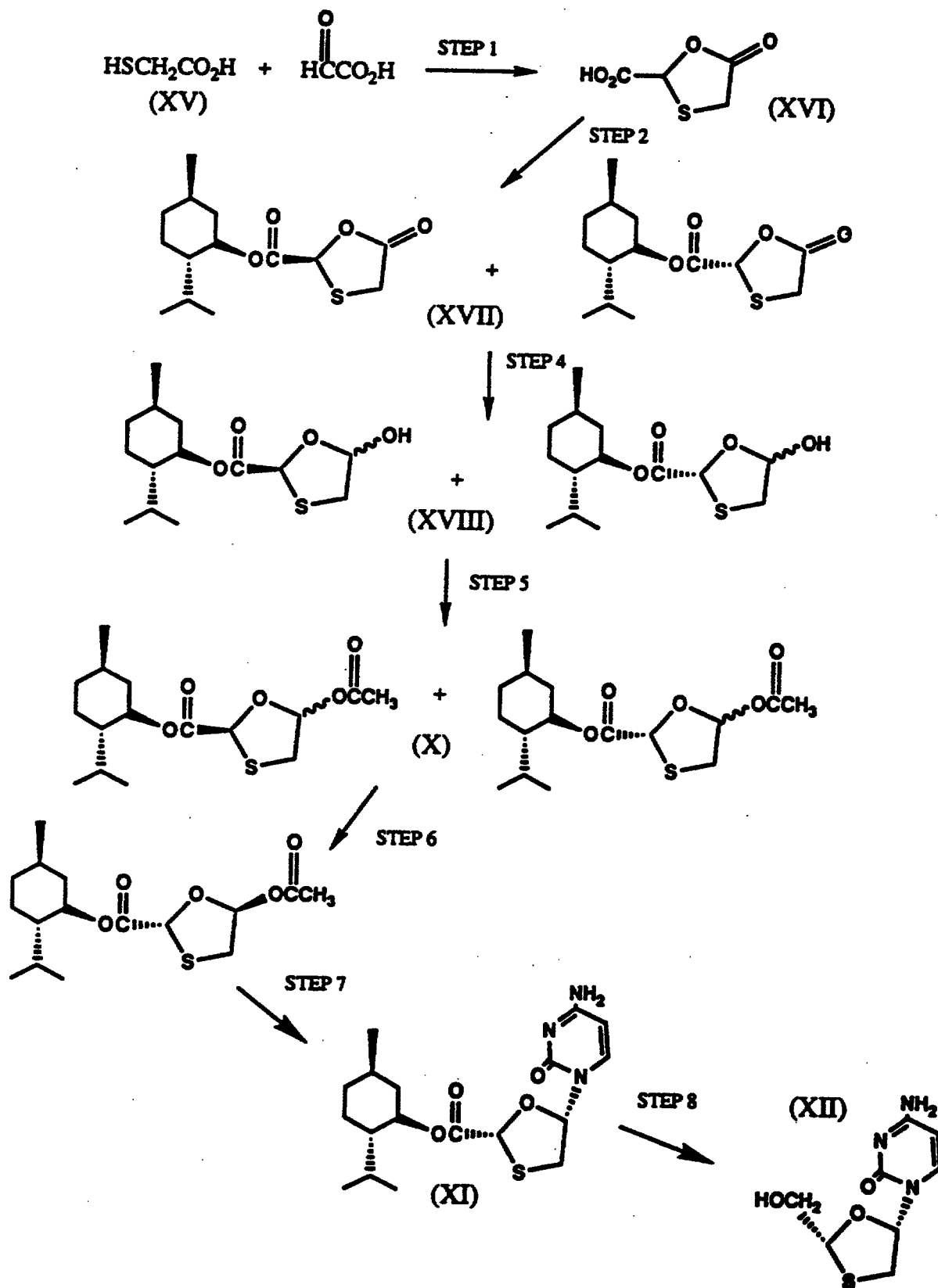
30 Schemes 4A and 4B illustrate the application of the process of Scheme 3 to the synthesis of the enantiomers of *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolanes. Although this process is illustrated using specific reagents and starting materials, it will

be appreciated by one of skill in the art that suitable analogous reactants and starting materials may be used to prepare analogous compounds.

SCHEME 4A



SCHEME 4B



The various steps involved in the synthesis of the nucleosides of formula (I) as depicted in Scheme 4 may be briefly described as follows:

Step 1: The known mercaptoacetic acid of formula (XV) is reacted with an appropriate aldehyde of formula R_3CHO , wherein R_3 is preferably an alkoxy carbonyl, such as menthyl glyoxylate and more preferably a carboxyl group, such as glyoxylic acid (see e.g., J.M. McIntosh et al., "2-Mercaptoaldehyde Dimers and 2,5-Dihydrothiophenes from 1,3-oxathiolan-5-ones", Can. J. Chem., 61, pp. 1872-1875 (1983)) in a compatible organic solvent, such as toluene, to give the intermediate of formula (XVI).

Step 2: The compound of formula (XVI) is reacted with an appropriate chiral auxiliary, preferably 1-menthol or d-menthol in a compatible organic solvent, such as dichloromethane, using an activating agent, such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, and an esterification catalyst, such as 4-dimethylamino-pyridine, to give the compounds of formula (XVII).

Step 3: The diastereomeric compounds of formula (XVII) are preferably separated by fractional crystallization (Scheme 4A), but may be carried on further without separation (Scheme 4B).

Step 4: The compounds of formula (XVII) are reduced with an appropriate reducing agent such as disiamylborane in a compatible organic solvent, such as tetrahydrofuran (A. Pelter et al., "Borane Reagents", Academic Press, p. 426 (1988)), to give the compounds of formula (XVIII).

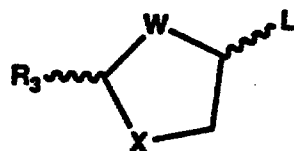
Step 5: The compounds of formula (XVIII) are reacted with an acid chloride or acid anhydride, such as acetic anhydride, in the presence of pyridine and an acylation catalyst, such as 4-dimethylaminopyridine, to give the compounds of formula (X).

Step 6: The diastereomeric compounds of formula (X), if not already separated (Scheme 4A), are now separated preferably by fractional crystallization (Scheme 4B) to give either the *cis*- or the *trans*-
5 acetoxo compound of formula (X).

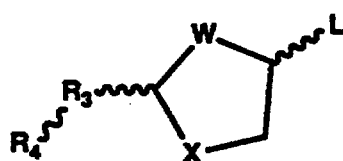
Step 7: Either the *cis*- or the *trans*-acetoxo compound of formula (X) is reacted with cytosine or other purine or pyrimidine base or analogue thereof. The purine or pyrimidine base or analogue is
10 preferably previously silylated with hexamethyldisilazane or more preferably silylated in situ with *t*-butyldimethylsilyl triflate in a compatible organic solvent, such as dichloromethane containing a hindered base preferably 2,4,6-collidine. A Lewis acid,
15 preferably one derived from the compounds of formula (III), more preferably iodotrimethylsilane or trimethylsilyl triflate, is then added to give the *cis* compound of formula (XI) in a highly diastereoselective manner.

20 Step 8: The optically active *cis*-nucleoside of formula (XI) is reduced stereospecifically with a reducing agent, preferably lithium triethylborohydride, or more preferably, lithium aluminum hydride, in an appropriate solvent, such as tetrahydrofuran or diethyl
25 ether, to give the compound of formula (XII).

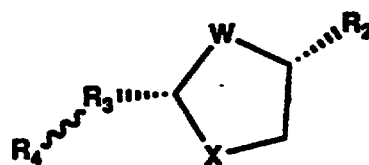
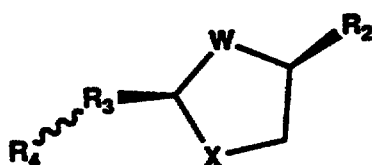
In the diastereoselective processes of this invention, the following intermediates are of particular importance:



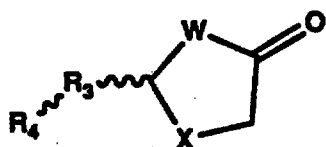
(II)



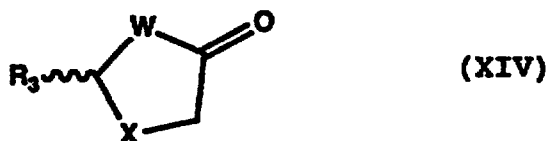
(VI)



(VII)



(XIII)



wherein R_3 , R_4 and L are as defined above;

trans-5-hydroxyoxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-one-

5 2S-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-one-

2R-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-hydroxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;

10 (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-hydroxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-hydroxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-hydroxy-1,3-

15 oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

20 (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-

25 oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

- (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
5 (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-(cytosin-1"-yl)-
10 1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
15 (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(N-4"-acetylcytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-
20 carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4R-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate and (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4S-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4R-chloro-1,3-
25 oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate and (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4S-chloro-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
cis-2(N-methyl-N-methoxyaminocarbonyl)-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;
cis- and *trans*-2-benzoyl-5-acetoxy-1,3-
30 oxathiolane;
cis-2-(1'-pyrrolidinocarbonyl)-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane;
cis-2-carbomethoxy-5-(5'-bromouracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-carboxyl-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-(1'-pyrrolidinocarbonyl)-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

5 *cis* 2-benzoyl-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis- and *trans*-isopropyl 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

10 *cis*-isopropyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

cis- and *trans*-*t*-butyl 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

cis-*t*-butyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

15 *cis*- and *trans*-2-N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl- 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3 -oxathiolane;

20 *cis*- and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-acetoxy-1,3-dioxolane;

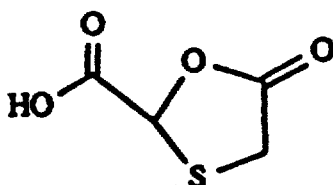
cis- and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-(thymine-1'-yl)-1,3-dioxolane; and

cis- and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-(N-4'-acetylcytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-dioxolane.

25 The following examples illustrate the present invention in a manner of which it can be practiced but, as such, should not be construed as limitations upon the overall scope of the processes of this invention. Except where specifically noted, all $[\alpha]_D$ measurements
30 were recorded at ambient temperature.

EXAMPLE 1

1,3-OXATHIOLAN-5-ONE-2-CARBOXYLIC ACID

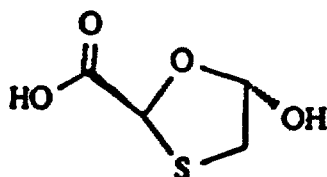


(XVI)

Toluene (700 mL), mercaptoacetic acid (38 mL,
5 50.03 g, 0.543 mol), and p-toluenesulfonic acid (1.0 g)
were added to a solution of glyoxylic acid monohydrate
(50.0 g, 0.543 mol) in 200 mL of THF in a 2 L round
bottom flask equipped with a Dean-Stark trap and
condenser. The resultant reaction mixture was refluxed
10 for 3 hours until 24.0 mL of H₂O was azeotropically
removed. The reaction mixture was cooled, followed by
removal of solvent under reduced pressure to yield an
off-white solid. This material was purified by
recrystallization (hexanes-EtOAc) to give 60.0 g of the
15 product as a crystalline white solid: m.p. 140-143°C;
¹H NMR (DMSO) δ 3.84 (q, 2H, JAB=16.7 Hz), 6.00 (s,
1H).

Example 2

TRANS-5-HYDROXYOXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLIC ACID

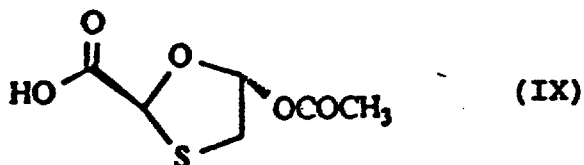


(VIII)

A suspension of dithian-1,4-diol (82.70 g,
5 0.54 mol) and glyoxylic acid monohydrate (100.0 g, 1.09
mol) in tert-butyl methyl ether (1.1 L) was stirred
under a blanket of nitrogen and heated to reflux under
Dean and Stark conditions. The reflux was continued
for 8 hours during which time 15.3 mL (0.85 mol) of
10 water was collected. The slightly turbid mixture was
filtered, and the solvent was distilled at atmospheric
pressure until a volume of 600 mL remained.
Cyclohexane (340 mL) was added and the solution was
cooled to 5°C, seeded, and allowed to stir and
15 crystallize. The suspension was stirred at 0-5°C for
2 hours. The product was isolated by filtration,
washed with 100 mL of tert-butyl methyl ether-
cyclohexane (2:1), and was dried overnight in vacuo at
room temperature (94.44 g): m.p. 94.5°C; ¹H NMR (DMSO)
20 δ 2.85 (dd, 1H, J=2.4, 10.5 Hz), 3.13 (dd, 1H, J=4.3,
10.5 Hz), 5.47 (s, 1H), 5.84 (brs, 1H), 6.95 (d, 1H,
J=4.7 Hz).

Example 3

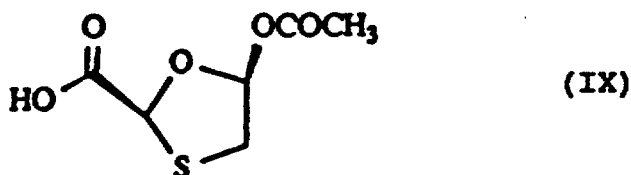
TRANS-5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLIC-ACID



One drop of concentrated H_2SO_4 was added to a
5 thoroughly stirred solution of trans-5-hydroxy-
oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (7.0 g, 46.7 mmol) in
glacial acetic acid (40 mL) and acetic anhydride
(15 mL, 15.9 mmol) at ambient temperature. The
resultant clear solution was stirred for 1 hour and
10 then poured onto crushed ice and brine (20 mL). This
mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL) and the
combined extract was dried over anhydrous magnesium
sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced
pressure to give 8.5 g (95%) of a light yellow syrup
15 which consisted of trans- and cis-5-acetoxy-1,3-
oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid in a 2:1 ratio. The
mixture was dissolved in benzene (20 mL) and was left
standing overnight during which white crystals were
formed. A small amount of ether was added and the
20 solid was collected by filtration and washed with more
ether to give 2 g (22%) of trans-5-acetoxy-1,3-
oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid: m.p. 111.3°C ; ^1H NMR
(DMSO) δ 2.03 (s, 3H), 3.21 (d, 1H, $J=12$ Hz), 3.32 (dd,
1H, $J=3, 12$ Hz), 5.65 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, 1H, $J=4$ Hz); ^{13}C
25 NMR (DMSO) δ 20.91, 36.51, 78.86, 99.15, 169.36,
170.04.

Example 4

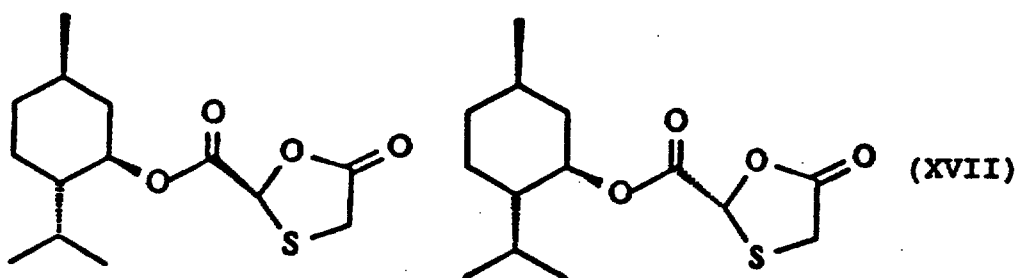
CIS-5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLIC ACID



The filtrate obtained from Example 3 was concentrated under reduced pressure and redissolved in ether. This solution was kept at room temperature and *cis*-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid slowly crystallized out as a white solid (2.1 g, 23%): m.p. 111.7°C; ¹H NMR (DMSO) δ 1.96 (s, 3H), 3.25-3.33 (m, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 6.69 (d, 1H, J=3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (DMSO) δ 21.0, 37.16, 79.57, 98.58, 169.36, 170.69.

Example 5

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-1,3-OXATHIOLAN-5-ONE-2S-CARBOXYLATE AND (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-1,3-OXATHIOLAN-5-ONE-2R-CARBOXYLATE



Oxalyl chloride (11 mL, 123.6 mmol) was added through a dropping funnel over a period of 30 minutes to a stirred solution of 1,3-oxathiolan-5-one-2-

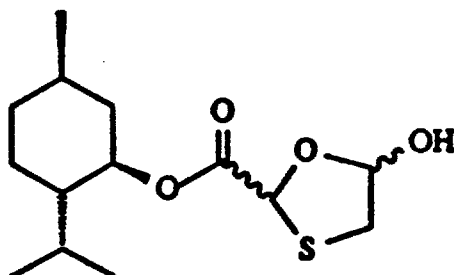
carboxylic acid (12.2 g, 82.4 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 ml) and CH_2Cl_2 (40 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. The resultant solution was heated at 65°C for 30 minutes and then was concentrated in vacuo to give an oily product (11.6 g, 90%). The crude acid chloride obtained was redissolved in dry CH_2Cl_2 (40 mL) and cooled at 0°C. (1R,2S,5R)-menthol (12.8 g, 82.4 mmol) dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) was slowly added to this cooled solution. The resultant solution was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (200 mL) and washed with water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution, brine, and then was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was removed and the crude product thus obtained was filtered through a short silica column (100 g, Merck) eluted with EtOAc-hexanes. Concentration of the appropriate fractions gave a 1:1 mixture of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-one-2S-carboxylate and (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-one-2R-carboxylate (20 g, 84.7% overall) as a viscous oil: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.77 (3H), 0.91 (6H), 1.00-1.15 (2H), 1.40-2.10 (6H), 3.56 (1H), 3.82 (1H), 4.80 (1H). 5.62 (1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 16.7, 21.2, 21.3, 22.5, 23.80, 23.84, 26.7, 26.8, 30.6, 31.91, 31.94, 34.57, 40.6, 41.07, 47.5, 47.6, 74.1, 74.2, 77.7, 168.1, 172.8.

The above mixture (20 g) was dissolved in a minimum amount of pentane-petroleum ether (40-60°C) (1:2, 30 mL). The resultant solution was cooled at -70°C for 10 minutes and the crystalline compound that was formed was quickly collected by filtration and washed with more cold petroleum ether (10 mL). This crystalline compound, isolated in 12.5% yield, was found to consist of one isomer as indicated by ^1H NMR

and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy: m. p. 78.5° ; $[\alpha]_D +31.7^\circ$ (c, 0.984, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.77 (3H), 0.91 (6H), 1.00-1.15 (2H), 1.40-2.10 (6H), 3.56 (1H), 3.82 (1H), 4.79 (1H), 5.62 (1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 16.7, 21.2, 22.5, 23.8, 26.7, 30.0, 32.0, 34.6, 41.1, 47.6, 77.7, 168.1, 172.9.

Example 6

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5S-HYDROXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE, (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-HYDROXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE, (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5S-HYDROXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE, (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-HYDROXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE



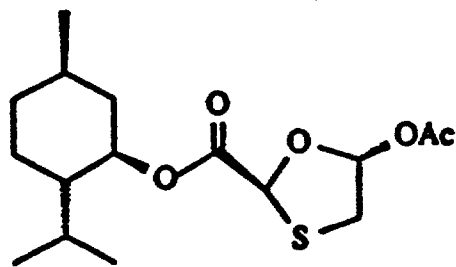
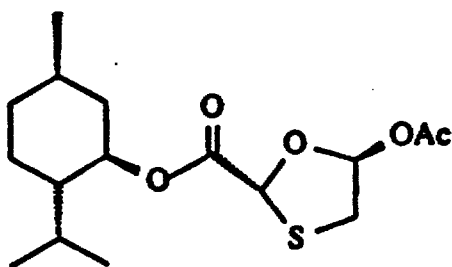
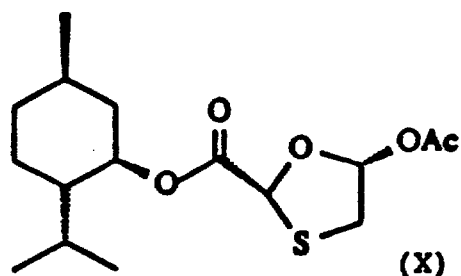
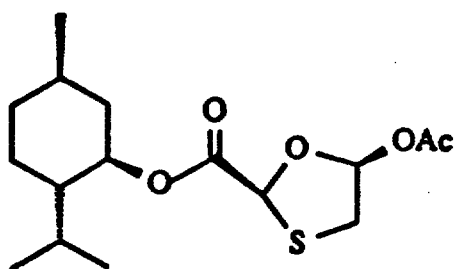
(XVIII)

A freshly prepared solution of disiamylborane (13.4 mmol, 0.5 M in THF) was added via canula to a stirred solution of a 1:1 mixture of the menthyl ester carboxylate of formula (XVII) (1.28 g, 4.47 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at 0°C under an argon atmosphere. The resulting clear solution was stirred for 15 minutes at 0°C and 18 hours at ambient temperature. The reaction was quenched with methanol (5 mL), concentrated, and diluted with methylene chloride (20 mL). The resultant solution was washed with brine (5x2 mL) and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. Removal of the solvent gave a clear oil. Subjecting this material to silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc-hexanes, 1:2, V/V) gave 0.65 g (50%) of the expected lactols in four diastereomeric forms: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.71-2.09 (m,

18H), 3.01-3.09 (m, 1H), 3.24-3.33 (m, 1H), 4.66-4.83 (m, 1H), 5.53-5.59 (m, 1H), 5.88-6.09 (m, 1H).

Example 7

5 (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5S-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE, (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE, (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5S-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE, (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE



10 The four title compounds were prepared as a mixture by the following two methods.

Method A

Lactols of formula (XVIII) (0.65 g, 2.25 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous pyridine (1.5 mL) and
15 methylene chloride (5 mL). Acetyl chloride (0.5 mL, 7.0 mmol) was slowly added to this solution at 0°C. The resulting white suspension was stirred at ambient temperature for 3 hours. The reaction was then quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride
20 solution (1 mL). The mixture was extracted with

methylene chloride (5x2 mL) and the combined extract was concentrated to give a brown gummy material. This material was subjected to column chromatography (EtOAc-hexane, 1:3 V/V) to provide 0.3 g of the four acetates
5 as a light yellow oil: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.75 (d, 6H, $J=7$ Hz), 0.78 (d, 6H, $J=7$ Hz), 0.88-0.94 (m, 24H), 0.97-2.03 (m, 36H), 2.10 (s, 9H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 3.15 (d, 2H, $J=12$ Hz), 3.23-3.30 (m, 4H), 3.42 (dd, 1H, $J=4, 12$ Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, $J=4, 12$ Hz), 4.65-4.75 (m, 4H), 5.61 (s, 1H),
10 5.62 (s, 1H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 6.64 (m, 4H).

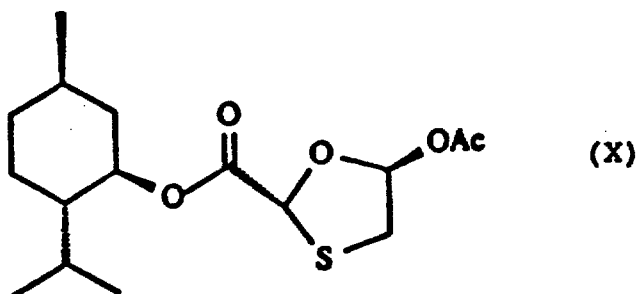
Method B

A solution of dicyclohexyl-carbodiimide (21.86 g, 0.106 mol) in dichloromethane (100 mL) was
15 added to a 500 mL round bottom flask containing a solution of *trans*- and *cis*- 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (X) (18.5 g, 0.096 mol), (1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-(-)-menthol (16.5 g, 0.106 mol), and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (1.17 g, 9.63 mmol) in dichloromethane
20 (200 mL) at 0°C. The resulting thick white slurry was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours at which time methanol (4.0 mL) and glacial acetic acid (2.0 mL) were added. After stirring for 10 minutes, the reaction mixture was diluted with hexanes (200 mL) and filtered
25 through Celite. Subsequent removal of the solvent provided 32.5 g of the crude product. This substance was redissolved in hexanes (100 mL), filtered through Celite and concentrated to yield 30.5 g of material which was further purified by column chromatography
30 (eluent: 100% hexanes to 5% EtOAc-hexanes) to give 5.5 g of a mixture (ca. 1:1) of (1'*R*,2'*S*,5'*R*)-menthyl-5*R*-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2*S*-carboxylate and (1'*R*,2'*S*,5'*R*)-menthyl-5*S*-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2*R*-carboxylate; 10.28 g of a material which contained

mainly the above two diastereomers along with
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-
carboxylate and (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-
oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate; 7.6 g of a random mixture
5 of the above four diastereomers; and 2.2 g of a mixture
(ca. 1:1) of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-
oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate and (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-
5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate.

Example 8

10 (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-
CARBOXYLATE



(1'R,2'S,5'R)-Menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-
oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate was prepared by the
15 following three methods.

Method A

A mixture of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-
acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate and
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-
20 carboxylate (5.5 g) obtained from Example 7 was
dissolved in petroleum ether (40-60°C) containing a
minimum amount of diethyl ether and cooled in a dry
ice-acetone bath. The white solid precipitate was
immediately collected by suction filtration to give 1.6
25 g of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-
2R-carboxylate: m.p. 105.2°C; $[\alpha]_D -60^\circ$ (c, 0.51,

CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.77 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.91 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.92 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.86-2.06 (m, 9H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 3.16 (d, 1H, J=12 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, J=4, 12 Hz), 4.74 (dt, 1H, J=5, 12 Hz), 5.63 (s, 1H), 6.79
5 (d, 1H, J=4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 16.16, 20.74, 21.11, 21.97, 23.29, 26.08, 31.38, 34.13, 37.24, 40.62, 47.07, 76.11, 79.97, 99.78, 168.60, 169.68.

Method B

A mixture of the four diastereomers of
10 formula (X) (300 mg) was dissolved in n-pentane containing a minimum amount of diethyl ether and was kept at -20°C for 24 hours. The white needles formed were filtered quickly while cold to give 25 mg of material. The substance thus isolated was found to be
15 identical in all respects with those obtained by Method A or C.

Method C

A solution of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (1.362 g, 6.6 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added to a
20 50 mL round bottom flask containing a solution of trans-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (1.16 g, 6.04 mmol), (1R,2S,5R)-(-)-menthol (1.038 g, 6.60 mmol), and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (75 mg, 0.62 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) at 0°C. The resulting white
25 slurry was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours at which time methanol (0.2 mL) and glacial acetic acid (0.2 mL) were added. After stirring for 10 minutes, the reaction mixture was diluted with hexanes (25 mL), filtered through Celite, and concentrated. The crude
30 product thus obtained was dissolved in hexanes (25 mL), filtered through Celite and concentrated to provide 1.98 g (100%) of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-

oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate and (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate:

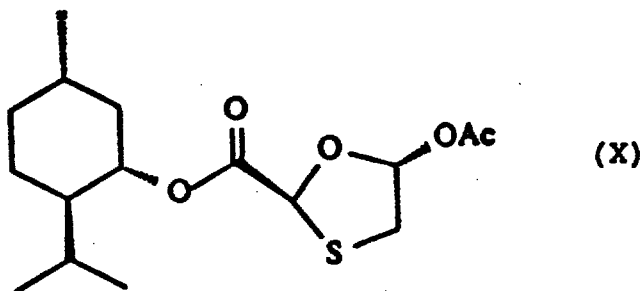
¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.78 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.85-0.92 (m, 12H), 0.95-2.19 (m, 18H), 2.10 (s, 6H), 3.15 (d, 2H, J=12 Hz), 3.42 (dd, 1H, J=4, 12 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, J=4, 12 Hz), 4.74 (dt, 2H, J=5, 12 Hz), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 2H)

The above mixture of diastereoisomers was dissolved in petroleum ether (40-60°C) containing a minimum amount of diethyl ether and was cooled in a dry ice-acetone bath. The white solid precipitate was immediately collected (620 mg) by suction filtration. This material was recrystallized again under the same conditions to yield 450 mg of a white solid. This compound was found to be identical in all respects to those prepared using either method A or method B.

Example 9

(1'S,2'R,5'S)- MENTHYL-5S-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE

20



A solution of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (491 mg, 2.38 mmol) in dichloromethane (7 mL) was added to a 50 mL round bottom flask containing a solution of trans-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (IX) (416 mg, 2.2 mmol), (1S,2R,5S)-(+)-menthol (372 mg, 2.38 mmol), and 4-dimethylamino-pyridine (26 mg, 0.21

mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) at 0°C. The resulting thick slurry was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours at which time methanol (0.2 mL) and glacial acetic acid (0.2 mL) were added. After stirring for 10 minutes, the mixture was diluted with hexanes (25 mL), filtered through Celite, and concentrated. The crude product obtained was dissolved in hexanes (25 mL), filtered through Celite, and concentrated to produce 0.715 mg (100%) of two diastereomers, namely

10 (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate and (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (d, 6H, J=7 Hz), 0.85-0.92 (m, 12H), 0.95-2.19 (m, 18H), 2.10 (s, 6H), 3.15 (d, 2H, J=12 Hz), 3.42 (dd, 1H, J=4, 12 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, J=4, 12 Hz), 4.72 (dt, 2H, J=5, 12 Hz) 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 2H).

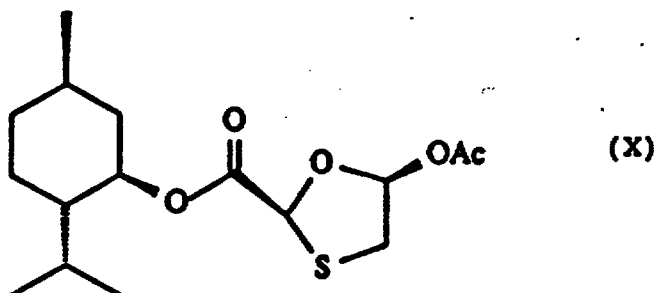
The above diastereomeric acetoxy menthyl esters mixture was dissolved in petroleum ether (40-60°C) containing a minimum amount of diethyl ether and was cooled in a dry ice-acetone bath. The white solid precipitate was immediately collected (200 mg) by suction filtration. This material was recrystallized again under the same conditions to yield 130 mg (34% based on one enantiomer) of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate:

25 m.p. 104.2°C; [α]_D +59.2° (c, 1.02, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.77 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.91 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.92 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.86-2.06 (m, 9H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 3.16 (d, 1H, J=12 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, J=4, 12 Hz), 4.74 (dt, 1H, J=5, 12 Hz), 5.63 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, 1H, J=4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 16.16, 20.74, 21.11, 21.97, 23.29, 26.08, 31.38, 34.13, 37.24, 40.62, 47.07, 76.11, 79.96, 99.78, 168.60, 169.68.

30

Example 10

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE



- 5 (1'R,2'S,5'R)-Methyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate was prepared by the following two methods.

Method A

- A saturated solution of a mixture of the four
10 diastereomers (12.28 g), obtained in Example 7, was prepared in petroleum ether containing a minimum amount of diethyl ether and was kept at -20°C for 72 hours. The white crystalline solid produced was isolated by filtration to give 1.6 g of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-
15 acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate: m.p. 110.2°C; $[\alpha]_D -177^\circ$ (c, 0.7, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.88 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.92 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.97-2.02 (m, 9H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 3.22 (d, 1H, J=11 Hz), 3.29 (dd, 1H J=4, 11 Hz), 4.74 (dt, 1H, J=4, 11
20 Hz), 5.63 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, 1H, J=3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 16.9, 20.69, 21.19, 21.95, 23.29, 26.10, 31.34, 34.0, 37.62, 40.32, 46.82, 75.69, 80.20, 99.36, 168.55, 170.23.

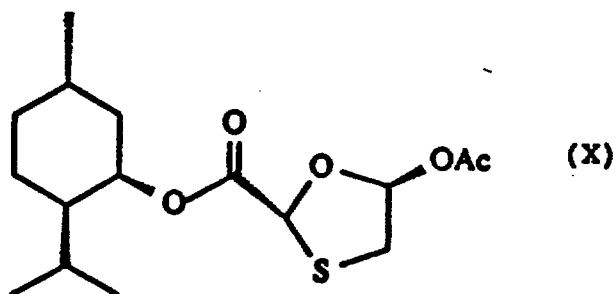
Method B

A solution of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (118 mg, 0.572 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added to a 25 mL round bottom flask containing a solution of
5 cis-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (100 mg, 0.52 mmol), (1R,2S,5R)-(-)-menthol (85 mg, 0.54 mmol), and 4-dimethyl-aminopyridine (DMAP) (8 mg, 0.053 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) at 0°C. The resulting white slurry was stirred at room temperature for 3
10 hours at which time methanol (0.1 mL) and glacial acetic acid (0.1 mL) was added. After stirring for 10 minutes, the mixture was diluted with hexanes (15 mL), filtered through Celite, and concentrated. The crude product obtained was dissolved in hexanes (15 mL),
15 filtered through Celite, and concentrated to yield 170 mg (100%) of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate and (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.78 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz),
20 0.88-0.94 (m, 12H), 0.97-2.03 (m, 18H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 3.23-3.30 (m, 4H), 4.65-4.75 (m, 2H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 6.64 (m, 2H).

The above mixture of diastereomers was recrystallized from petroleum ether (40-60°C) and a
25 minimum amount of diethyl ether at room temperature. The white crystalline material formed was collected (95 mg) by filtration. This material was recrystallized again from diethyl ether-petroleum ether to yield 74 mg (78% based on one enantiomer) of
30 (1'R,2'S,5'R) menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate.

Example 11

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-5S-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE



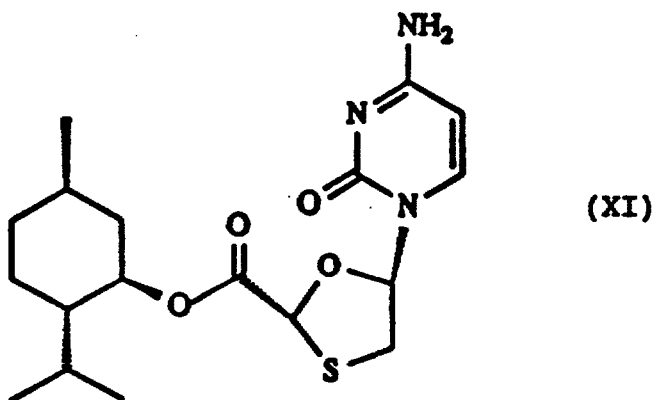
5 A solution of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (1.588 g, 7.7 mmol) in dichloromethane (7 mL) was added to a 50 ml round bottom flask containing a solution *cis*-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (1.36 g, 7 mmol), (1S,2R,5S)-(+)-menthol (1.216 g, 7.7 mmol), and
10 4-dimethylamino-pyridine (85 mg, 0.7 mmol) in dichloromethane (16 mL) at 0°C. The resulting thick slurry was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. The reaction was quenched with methanol (0.4 mL) and glacial acetic acid (0.4 mL) and the mixture was
15 stirred for 10 min. The resultant mixture was diluted with hexanes (25 mL), filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated. The crude material thus obtained was redissolved in hexanes (25 mL) and filtered through Celite. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure
20 yielded 2.3 g of a white solid (100%) which consisted of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate and (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate:

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.78 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.88-0.94 (m, 12H), 0.97-2.03 (m, 18H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 3.23-3.30 (m, 4H), 4.65-4.74 (m, 2H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 6.64 (m, 2H).

The above mixture of diastereomers was recrystallized from petroleum ether (40-60°C) and a small amount of diethyl ether at room temperature to give 1.3 g of a white solid. This material was
5 recrystallized again from diethyl ether-petroleum ether (40-60°C) to give 900 mg (78% based on one enantiomer) of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate: m.p. 110.2°C; $[\alpha]_D +177^\circ$ (c, 1.0, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.89 (d, 3H, J= 7Hz), 0.92 (d, 3H, J=7 Hz), 0.98-2.02 (m, 9H),
10 2.12 (s, 3H), 3.22 (d, 1H, J=11 Hz), 3.29 (dd, 1H, J=4, 11 Hz), 4.74 (dt, 1H, J=11, 4 Hz), 5.63 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, 1H, J=3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 16.9, 20.69, 21.19, 21.95, 23.29, 26.10, 31.34, 34.09, 37.62, 40.32, 46.82,
15 75.79, 80.20, 99.36, 168.55, 170.23.

Example 12

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5S-(CYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE



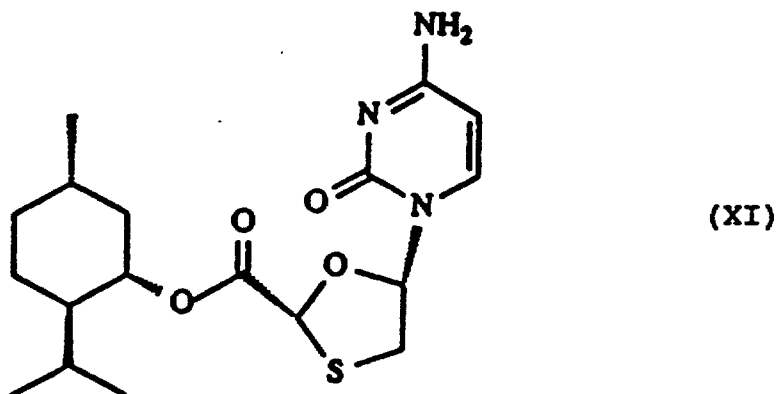
20 t-Butyl-dimethylsilyl trifluoromethane-sulfonate (1.1 mL, 4.79 mmol) was added to a suspension of cytosine (0.27 g, 2.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) containing 2,4,6-collidine (0.65 ml, 4.92 mmol) at room temperature. The resultant mixture was stirred for 15
25 minutes and a clear solution was produced. A solution

of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (0.66 g, 1.99 mmol) in methylene chloride (1.5 mL) was added to the mixture and stirring was continued for 5 minutes. Iodotrimethylsilane
5 (0.31 mL, 2.18 mmol) was introduced dropwise and a white precipitate was produced when the addition was completed. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 18 hours. The reaction was quenched by addition of a saturated aqueous solution of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (10 mL) and
10 CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL). The organic layer was separated and washed with brine (2x10 mL). The solvent was removed in vacuo to give a viscous oil which was suspended in diethyl ether (30 mL). To this suspension was added a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO_3 (20 mL) with
15 vigorous stirring. A white precipitate appeared and the resultant suspension was diluted with hexanes (10 mL). The precipitate was collected by filtration to give 0.57 g (75%) of a white solid. The ^1H NMR spectrum of this material indicated that it was a
20 mixture of the *cis*- and *trans*- diastereomers of the expected nucleoside in a 23:1 ratio.

This product was purified further by recrystallization from EtOAc-hexanes-MeOH: $[\alpha]_D^{25} -144^\circ$ (c, 1.02, CHCl_3); m.p. 219°C (decomposed); ^1H NMR
25 (CDCl_3) δ 0.76 (d, 3H, $J=7$ Hz), 0.85-0.94 (m, 6H), 1.02-1.10 (m, 2H), 1.42-2.06 (m, 7H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, $J=6.6, 12.1$ Hz), 3.54 (dd, 1H, $J=4.7, 12.1$ Hz), 4.72-4.78 (m, 1H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 5.99 (d, 1H, $J=7.5$ Hz), 8.43 (d, 1H, $J=7.6$ Hz); ^{13}C (CDCl_3) δ 16.1, 20.7, 21.9,
30 23.2, 26.4, 31.4, 34.0, 36.3, 40.7, 47.1, 76.7, 78.4, 90.3, 94.6, 141.8, 155.4, 165.6, 169.8.

Example 13

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-5S-(CYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-
OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE

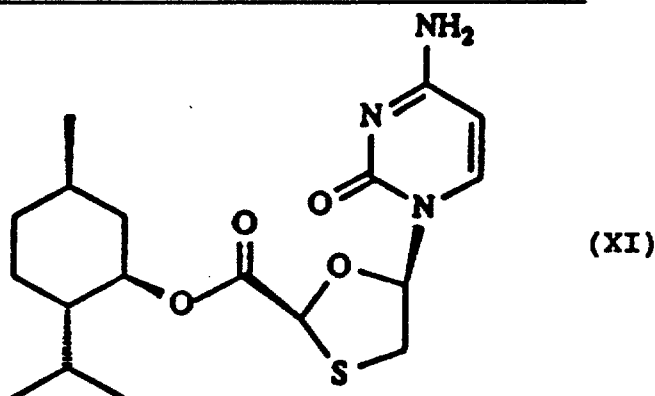


5 2,4,6-Collidine (0.317 mL, 2.4 mmol) and t-
butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.551 mL,
2.4 mmol) were added successively to a suspension of
cytosine (133.3 mg, 1.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) at room
temperature under an argon atmosphere. The resultant
10 mixture was stirred for 15 minutes to produce a clear
solution. A solution of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-
acetoxyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (330 mg, 1 mmol)
in CH₂Cl₂ (0.5 mL) was introduced, followed by
iodotrimethylsilane (0.156 ml, 1.1 mmol). The
15 resultant mixture was stirred for 3 hours. The mixture
was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and washed successively
with saturated aqueous NaHSO₃, water, and brine. The
solvent was evaporated and the residue was taken up in
ether-hexanes (1:1, 10 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃
20 (2 mL). Stirring was continued for 15 minutes. The
aqueous layer was removed and the organic phase was
centrifuged to give a white solid which was washed with
hexanes (3x5 mL) and dried under vacuum. This
substance, namely (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-
25 1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolan-2R-carboxylate (380 mg, 100%) was
contaminated with about 3% of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-

5R-(cytosin-1"-1,3-oxathiolan-2R-carboxylate (as indicated by its ^1H NMR spectrum), was recrystallized from MeOH to give (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate: $[\alpha]_D^{25} -58^\circ$ (c, 0.506, CHCl_3); m.p.: 235°C (decomposed)); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.80 (3H), 0.92 (6H), 1.06 (2H), 1.37-2.10 (7H), 3.11 (1H), 3.55 (1H), 4.77 (1H), 5.47 (1H), 5.79 (1H), 6.49 (1H), 8.37 (1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 6.8, 21.3, 22.5, 23.9, 26.8, 32.0, 34.6, 37.0, 40.7, 47.4, 77.3, 79.3, 90.9, 95.3, 142.9, 155.1, 164.9, 170.1.

Example 14

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-(CYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE

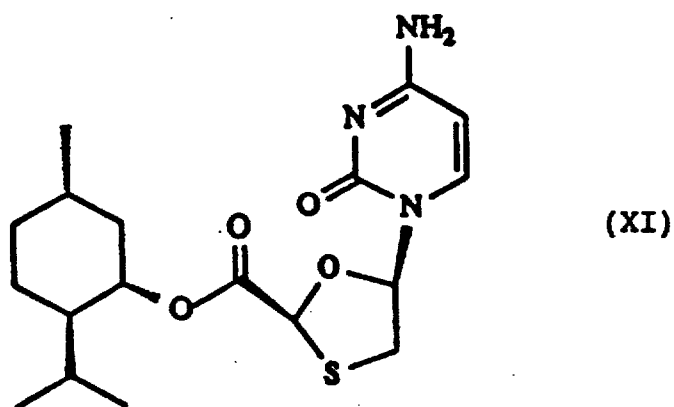


15 2,4,6-collidine (0.317 mL, 2.4 mmol) and t-butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.551 mL, 2.4 mmol) were added successively to a suspension of cytosine (133.3 mg, 1.2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. The resultant
20 mixture was stirred for 15 minutes and a clear solution was obtained. A solution of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolan-2S-carboxylate (330 mg, 1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.5 mL) was introduced, followed by iodotrimethylsilane (0.156 mL, 1.1 mmol). Stirring was
25 continued for 3 hours. The mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) and washed successively with saturated aqueous NaHSO_3 , water, brine and then was concentrated.

The residue was taken up in ether-hexanes (1:1, 10 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 mL) and was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. The aqueous layer was removed and the organic phase was centrifuged to yield
5 a white solid which was washed with hexanes (3x5 mL) and then dried under vacuum. The product (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolan-2S-carboxylate (336.3 mg, 88%) contained about 6% of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-
10 1,3-oxathiolan-2S-carboxylate (NMR). This material was recrystallized from MeOH to give the desired product: $[\alpha]_D^{+56}$ (c, 1.08, CHCl₃); m.p.: 235°C (decomposed); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.80 (3H) 0.91 (6H), 1.00 (2H), 1.37-2.10 (7H), 3.11 (1H), 3.55 (1H), 4.77 (1H), 5.47 (1H),
15 5.79 (1H), 6.49 (1H), 8.37 (1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 16.8, 21.3, 22.5, 23.9, 26.8, 32.0, 34.6, 36.8, 40.7, 47.4, 77.1, 78.8, 90.9, 95.6, 141.9, 156.3, 166.6, 170.2.

Example 15

20 (1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-5R-(CYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE



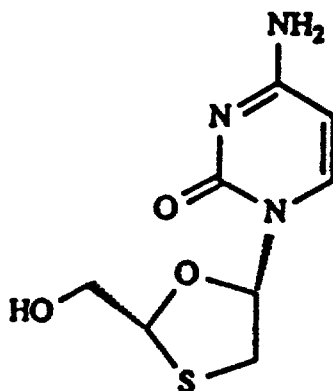
2,4,6-collidine (0.106 mL, 0.8 mmol) and t-butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate were added successively to a suspension of cytosine (44 mg, 0.4
25 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.5 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. Stirring was continued at room

temperature for 15 minutes and a clear solution was produced. A solution of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolan-2S-carboxylate (110 mg, 0.33 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.3 mL) was added, followed by
5 iodotrimethylsilane (0.052 mL, 0.36 mmol). The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and then was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL). The mixture was washed successively with saturated aqueous NaHSO_3 , water, brine and concentrated under reduced
10 pressure. The residue was taken up in ether-hexanes (1:1, 5 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (1 mL) and stirring was continued at room temperature for 20 minutes. The aqueous layer was removed and the white solid suspended in the organic phase was collected by
15 centrifugation. This solid was washed with hexanes (3x5 mL) and dried under vacuum to provide 65 mg (51.2%) of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolan-2S-carboxylate contaminated with approximately 5% of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-
20 1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolan-2S-carboxylate as indicated by ^1H NMR spectroscopy. Recrystallization of the crude material from $\text{MeOH-Et}_2\text{O}$ gave the desired product:
m.p. 210-211°C; $[\alpha]_D +179^\circ$ (c, 0.66, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.77 (3H) 0.92 (6H), 1.00 (2H), 1.37-2.10
25 (6H), 3.14 (1H), 3.55 (1H), 4.76 (1H), 5.46 (1H), 5.88 (1H), 6.46 (1H), 8.38 (1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 16.8, 21.3, 21.8, 22.5, 23.9, 26.7, 31.9, 34.7, 38.7, 40.9, 47.4, 76.4, 80.8, 100.0, 169.1, 170.8

The washings and the supernatant were
30 combined and washed with 1N HCl, water, brine, and then was dried over Na_2SO_4 . Evaporation of the solvent yielded 53 mg (48%) of unreacted (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolan-2S-carboxylate.

Example 16

2R-HYDROXYMETHYL-5S-(CYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE



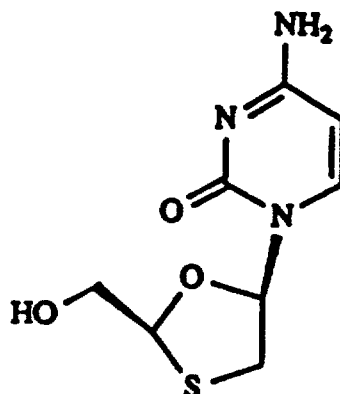
(XII)

A solution of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (67 mg, 0.18 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was slowly added to a stirred suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (19 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at ambient temperature under an argon atmosphere. Stirring was continued for 30 minutes. The reaction was then quenched with methanol (3 mL), followed by the addition of silica gel (5 g). The resultant slurry was stirred for 30 minutes and then was transferred to a short column packed with Celite and silica gel and was eluted with a 1:1:1 mixture of EtOAc-hexane-methanol (50 mL). The eluate was concentrated and subjected to silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc-hexane-methanol, 1:1:1) to give a gummy solid. This solid was dried azeotropically with toluene to give 38 mg (94%) of the desired product:

[α]_D -122° (c, 1.01, MeOH); m.p. 128-130°C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 3.05 (dd, 1H, J=4.3, 11.9 Hz) 3.42 (dd, 1H, J=5.3, 11.9 Hz), 3.76-3.89 (m, 2H), 5.19-5.21 (m, 1H), 5.81 (d, 1H, J=7.6 Hz), 6.20-6.23 (m, 1H), 7.01-7.16 (brm, 2H, exchangeable), 7.98 (d, 1H, J=7.5 Hz); ¹³C (CD₃OD) δ 38.5, 64.1, 88.0, 88.9, 95.7, 142.8, 157.9, 167.7.

Example 17

2S-HYDROXYMETHYL-5R-(CYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE

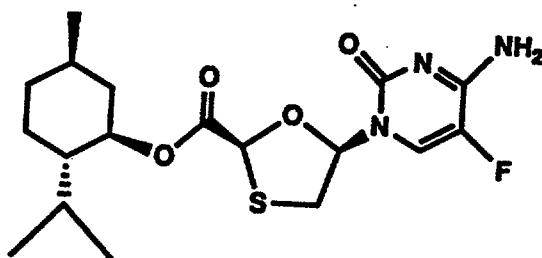


(XII)

A solution of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-
5 (cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate (102 mg, 0.27 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was slowly added to a stirred suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (20 mg, 0.54 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at ambient temperature under an argon atmosphere. Stirring was continued for 30
10 minutes and the reaction was quenched with methanol (5 mL), followed by the addition of silica gel (7 g). The resultant slurry was stirred for 30 minutes, transferred to a short column packed with Celite and silica gel and was eluted with a 1:1:1 mixture of
15 EtOAc-hexane-MeOH (50 mL). The eluate was concentrated and subjected to silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc-hexane-MeOH, 1:1:1) to provided a gummy solid which was dried azeotropically with toluene to give 50 mg (82%) of a white solid as the product: $[\alpha]_D$
20 $+125^\circ$ (c, 1.01, MeOH); m.p. 130-132°C; ^1H NMR (CD_3OD) δ 3.05 (dd, 1H, J=4.3, 11.9 Hz), 3.42 (dd, 1H, J=5.3, 11.9 Hz), 3.76-3.89 (m, 2H), 5.19-5.21 (m, 1H), 5.81 (d, 1H, J=7.6 Hz), 6.20-6.23 (m, 1H), 7.01-7.16 (brm, 2H, exchangeable), 7.98 (d, 1H, J=7.5 Hz); ^{13}C (CD_3OD) δ
25 38.5, 64.1, 88.0, 88.9, 95.7, 142.8, 157.9, 167.7.

Example 18

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R-(5'-FLUOROCYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2S-CARBOXYLATE

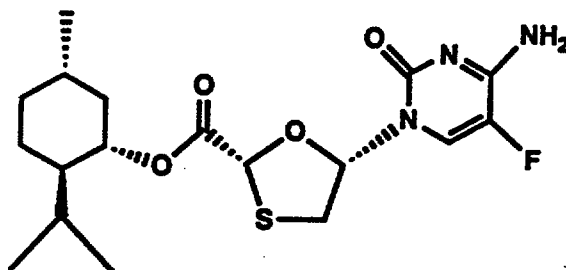


To a suspension of 5-fluorocytosine (155 mg,
5 1.2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere was added, successively, 2,4,6-collidine (0.317 mL, 2.4 mmol) and t-butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethane-sulfonate (0.551 mL, 2.4 mmol). The resultant mixture was stirred for 15 minutes and a
10 clear solution was obtained. A solution of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate (330 mg, 1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.5 mL) was introduced, followed by iodotrimethylsilane (0.156 mL, 1.1 mmol). Stirring was continued for 3 hours. The
15 mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) and washed successively with saturated aqueous NaHSO_3 , water, brine and then was concentrated. The residue was taken up in ether-hexanes (1:1, 10mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (2 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 15
20 minutes. The aqueous layer was removed and the organic phase was centrifuged to afford a white solid which was washed with hexanes (3x5 mL) and then dried under vacuum. The product (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate
25 (350 mg, 88%) thus obtained contained about 6% of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-

oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate (NMR). This material was recrystallized from MeOH/CH₂Cl₂/benzene to give a crystalline product: $[\alpha]_D^{26} +22^\circ$ (c, 0.19, MeOH); m.p. 216-218°C, ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.78 (d, 3H, J= 7Hz), 0.91 (t, 6H, J=7.3 Hz), 1.00 (m, 2H), 1.39-2.04 (m, 7H), 3.12 (dd, 1H, J=6.6 Hz, 6.1 Hz), 3.52 (dd, 1H, J=4.7 Hz, 6.1 Hz), 4.79 (dt, 1H, J=4.4 Hz, 4.3 Hz), 5.46 (s, 1 H), 5.75 (bs, 1H, exchangeable), 6.42 (5t, 1H, J=5.0 Hz), 8.10 (bs, 1H, exchangeable), 8.48 (d, 1H, J=6.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃-DMSO-d₆): δ 16.7, 21.2, 22.4, 23.7, 26.6, 31.8, 34.4, 36.6, 40.5, 47.2, 77.1, 79.1, 90.8, 126.3 (d, J=33 Hz), 137.1 (d, J=244 Hz), 154.2, 158.3 (d, J=15 Hz), 170.1.

Example 19

15 (1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-5S-(5"-FLUOROCYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE

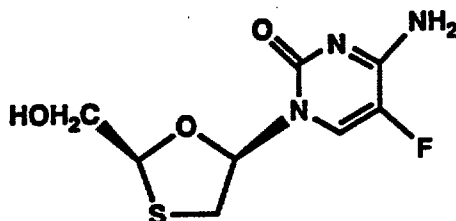


To a suspension of 5-fluorocytosine (180.0 mg, 1.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere was added, successively, 2,4,6-collidine (0.46 mL, 3.5 mmol) and t-butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethane-sulfonate (0.67 mL, 2.9 mmol). The resultant mixture was stirred for 15 minutes and a clear solution was obtained. A solution of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-

carboxylate (414 mg, 1.25 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.6 mL) was introduced, followed by iodotrimethylsilane (0.18 mL, 1.27 mmol). The resultant mixture was stirred for 1 hour. The mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) and
5 washed successively with saturated aqueous NaHSO_3 , water, and brine. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was taken up in ether-hexanes (1:1, 10 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (2 mL). Stirring was continued for 15 minutes. The aqueous layer was
10 removed and the organic phase was centrifuged to give a white solid which was washed with hexanes (3x5 mL) and dried under vacuum. This substance, namely (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (454 mg, 91%) contained
15 about 7% of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (as indicated by its ^1H NMR spectrum), was recrystallized from benzene CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH to give the title compound: $[\alpha]_D^{26} -20^\circ$ (c, 0.072, MeOH); m.p. 220-222°C (decomposed), ^1H NMR (CDCl_3)
20 δ 0.80 (d, 3H, $J=7$ Hz), 0.90 (t, 6H, $J=7$ Hz), 1.0 (m, 2H), 1.39-2.04 (m, 7H), 3.12 (dd, 1H, $J=6.6$ and 6 Hz), 3.52 (dd, 1H, $J=5$ and 6 Hz), 4.8 (dt, 1H, $J=4.4$ and 4.3 Hz), 5.46 (s, 1H), 5.78 (bs, 1H, exchangeable), 6.42 (t, 1H, $J=5$ Hz), 8.1 (bs, 1H exchangeable), 8.5 d, 1H,
25 $J=6.6$ Hz); ^{13}C (CDCl_3) δ 16.2, 20.7, 21.9, 23.3, 26.2, 31.4, 34.0, 36.3, 40.1, 46.8, 76.7, 78.7, 90.5, 125.9 (d, $J=33$ Hz), 136.5 (d, $J=242$ Hz), 153.7, 158.2 (d, $J=14$ Hz), 169.6.

Example 20

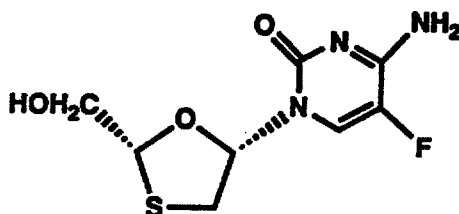
**2S-HYDROXYMETHYL-5R-(5'-FLUOROCYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-
OXATHIOLANE**



To a suspension of lithium aluminum hydride
5 (10 mg, 0.54 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at ambient temperature
under an argon atmosphere was slowly added a solution
of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-
1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate (54 mg, 0.135 mmol) in
THF (2 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir
10 for 30 minutes, then quenched with excess methanol (2
mL), followed by the addition of silica gel (3 g). The
resultant slurry was subjected to silica gel column
chromatography (EtOAc-Hexane-MeOH, 1:1:1) to provide a
gummy solid which was dried azeotropically with toluene
15 to give 20.7 mg (63%) of a white solid as the product:
[α]_D²⁶+114° (c, 0.12, MeOH); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 3.14
(dd, 1H, J=4.3, 11.9 Hz), 3.42 (dd, 1H J=5.3, 11.9 Hz),
3.76 (m, 2H), 5.18 (m, 1H), 5.42 (t, 1H, J=4.8 Hz), 6.14
(m, 1H), 7.59 (br m, 1H, exchangeable), 7.83 (br m, 1H
20 exchangeable), 8.20 (d, 1H, J=7.66 Hz).

Example 21

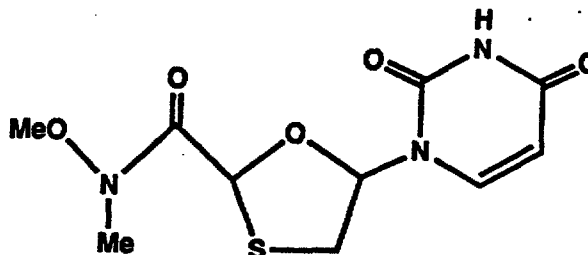
2R-HYDROXYMETHYL-5S-(5'-FLUOROCYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-
OXATHIOLANE



To a stirred THF (2 mL) suspension of lithium
5 aluminum hydride (22 mg, 1.13 mmol) at ambient
temperature under an argon atmosphere was slowly added
a solution of (1'R, 2'S, 5'R)-menthyl-5S-(5"-
fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (91
mg, 0.23 mmol) in THF (8 mL). The reaction mixture was
10 allowed to stir for 2 hours., and was quenched by
addition of methanol (3 mL), followed by silica gel (5
g). The resultant slurry was stirred for 30 minutes.
The mixture was then passed through a short pad of
Celite and silica gel eluted with a 1:1:1 mixture of
15 EtOAc-hexane-Methanol (10x5 mL). The eluate was
concentrated and subjected to silica gel column
chromatography (EtOAc-hexane-methanol, 1:1:1) to give a
gummy solid. This solid was dried azeotropically with
toluene to give 45 mg (80%) of the desired product:
20 $[\alpha]_D^{26} -119^\circ$ (c, 1.01, MeOH), ^1H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 3.14
(dd, 1H, J=4.3, 11.9 Hz), 3.42 (dd, 1H, J=5.3, 11.9
Hz), 3.76 (m, 2H), 5.18 (m, 1H), 5.42 (t, 1H, J=4.8
Hz), 6.14 (m, 1H), 7.59 (br m, 1H, exchangeable), 7.83
(br m, 1H exchangeable), 8.20 (d, 1H J=7.66 Hz).

Example 22

CIS-2 (N-METHYL-N-METHOXYAMINOCARBONYL) -5-(URACIL-1'-YL) -1,3-OXATHIOLANE

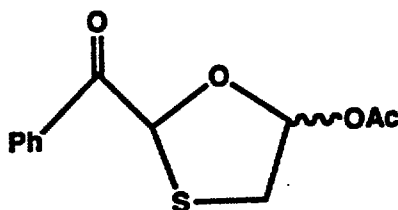


Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulphonate
5 (TMSOTf) (107 μ L, 0.552 mmol) was introduced to a stirred suspension of uracil (31 mg, 0.276 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.5 mL) containing collidine (73 μ L, 0.552 mmol) under argon atmosphere. The resultant mixture was stirred for 15 minutes to provide a
10 homogeneous solution. A solution of trans-2-(N-methyl-N-methoxyaminocarbonyl)-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane (50 mg, 0.23 mmol) in dichloromethane (1mL) was introduced, followed by iodotrimethylsilane (TMSI) (33 μ L, 0.23 mmol). The reaction was allowed to proceed for 2.5
15 hours and then was quenched with a solution of saturated NaHCO_3 and $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (1:1). The resulting mixture was stirred for 5 minutes and then was transferred to a separatory funnel with the aid of more dichloromethane. The aqueous phase was removed and the
20 organic layer was washed with saturated $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, water, brine and then was dried (Na_2SO_4). Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure afforded the crude product which was triturated with EtOAc-Hexane (1:1) to give 54 mg (87%) of the title compound as a white
25 solid; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 3.14 (d of d, 1H, $J=8.0$, 11.8 Hz), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.38 (d of d, 1H, $J=4.7$, 11.8 Hz),

3.74 (s, 3H), 5.80 (d, 1H, J=8.2 Hz), 5.82 (s, 1H), 6.44 (d of d, 1H, J=4.7, 8.0 Hz), 8.64 (d, 1H, J=8.2 Hz), 9.64 (br s, 1H).

Example 23

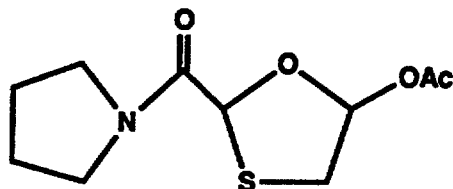
5 CIS- AND TRANS-2-BENZOYL-5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE



Phenyl glyoxal monohydrate (608 mg, 4.0 mmol) and 2,5-dihydroxy-1,4-dithiane (304 mg, 2.0 mmol) were heated for ca. 5 minutes at 65°C until the reagents melted. The reaction mixture was diluted with
10 dichloromethane (40 mL). Pyridine (1.32 mL, 16.0 mmol), 4-dimethylamino-pyridine (DMAP) (48 mg), and acetyl chloride (0.85 mL, 12.0 mmol) were added to the stirred solution at 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4.5 hours and diluted
15 with brine solution (15 mL). The organic layer was separated, washed with sodium bicarbonate and brine solutions, dried (sodium sulfate), and evaporated to a brown liquid (1.80 g). The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography eluting with hexanes:EtOAc
20 (3:1) to yield the trans and cis isomers (2.4:1 ratio) (714 mg, 71%); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.0 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 3.15-3.25 (m, 1H), 3.35-3.45 (m, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.7 (m, 1H), 6.9 (m, 1H), 7.4-7.5 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.9-8.0 (m, 2H).

Example 24

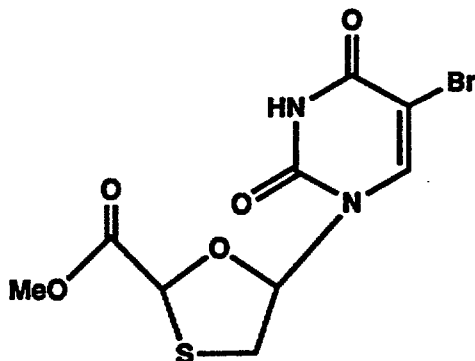
CIS-2-(1'-PYRROLIDINOCARBONYL)-5-ACETOXY-1,3-
OXATHIOLANE



To a solution of 5-acetoxy-oxathiolane-2-
5 carboxylic acid (576 mg, 3.0 mmol), pyridine (0.533 mL,
6.60 mmol), and dichloromethane (20 mL) at 0°C, was
added oxalyl chloride (0.314 mL, 3.6 mmol). The
reaction was stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes and then
cooled to -70°C at which time pyrrolidine (0.5 mL, 6.0
10 mmol) was added in one portion. The reaction was
stirred at room temperature for 2 hours followed by
addition of 1N HCl (5 mL). The organic layer was
separated, washed with sodium bicarbonate and brine
solutions, dried (sodium sulfate), and concentrated to
15 yield 0.851 g of crude product. This residue was
purified by silica gel chromatography eluting with
EtOAc:hexanes (9:1) to give 616 mg (84%) of the desired
product; ¹NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.80-2.00 (m, 4H), 2.11 (s, 3H),
3.20-3.35 (m, 2H), 3.40-3.55 (m, 4H), 5.76 (s, 1H),
20 6.60 (m, 1H).

Example 25

CIS-2-CARBOMETHOXY-5-(5'-BROMOURACIL-1'-YL)-1,3-
OXATHIOLANE

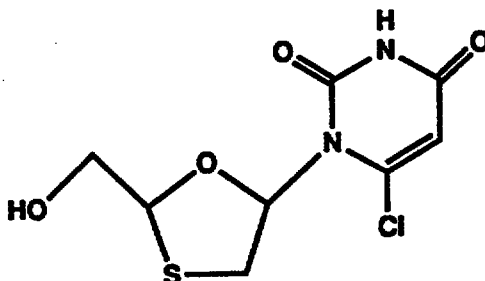


Bis-trimethylsilyl-acetamide (4 mL, 16.2
5 mmol) was added to a suspension of 5-bromouracil (1.5
g, 7.9 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL). The reaction
was stirred for 30 minutes, yielding a clear solution.
Then a dichloromethane solution (5 mL) of 2-
carbomethoxy-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane (1.6 g, 7.8 mmol
10 *cis:trans* 1:2) was added, followed by TMSI (1.1 mL, 7.7
mmol).

The reaction was stirred at ambient
temperature for 18 hours and then sequentially treated
with saturated aqueous solutions of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ and NaHCO_3
15 to give a white suspension. The suspension was
filtered to remove the solid (unreacted base). The
filtrate was concentrated and triturated with EtOAc-
Hex (1:1) to give white solid which was filtered,
washed and dried to give 0.98 g (38%) of the product.
20 ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 3.2 (dd, 1H, $J=7$ and 12 Hz), 3.47 (dd,
1H, $J=5$ and 12 Hz), 3.87 (s, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 6.42
(dd, 1H, $J=5$ and 7 Hz), 8.72 (s, 1H), 9.19 (br s, 1H).

Example 26

CIS-2-HYDROXYMETHYL-5-(6'-CHLOROURACIL-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE

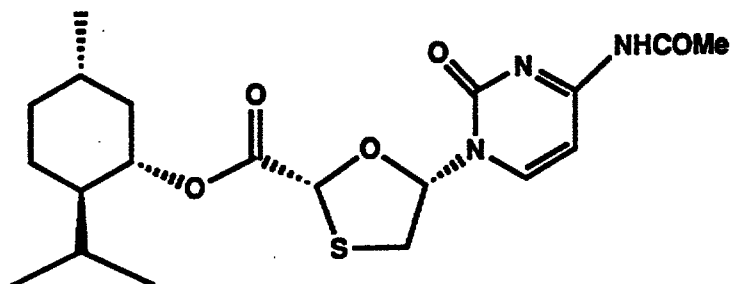


TMSOTf (4.5 mL, 27.3 mmol) was added to a
5 suspension of bis-O-silyl-6-chlorouracil (9.5 g, 32.6
mmol) and 2-carbethoxy-5-acetoxoxathiolane (6.3 g,
27.4 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (40 mL). The
resulting clear solution was heated slowly up to 60°C
and kept at this temperature for 1 hour, during which
10 time a thick precipitate appeared. The reaction was
cooled down to ambient temperature and the white
precipitate was collected after filtration, washed and
dried to give 3.5 g (42%) of the only *cis* nucleoside
ester product (¹H NMR). To a tetrahydrofuran (THF) (50
15 mL) suspension of nucleoside ester product (2.6 g, 8.5
mmol), under argon atmosphere, was slowly added LiBH₄
(0.4 g, 18.6 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 5
hours, then quenched with methanol. The solvent was
removed, followed by subjecting the resulting gummy
20 material to column chromatography (2:2:1, EtOAc-Hex-
MeOH, v/v) to yield 1.9 g (85%) of the title
nucleoside. The overall yield of these two
transformations was 64%; HPLC purity (96%); mp 202-
204°C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 3.09-3.30 (1H), 3.38-3.47

(1H), 3.60-3.72 (2H), 4.45 (1H), 5.05-5.09 (1H), 5.27 (1H), 5.59-5.62 (1H), 6.71-6.76 (1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 32.6, 63.2, 64.2, 84.7, 87.9, 94.4, 106.6, 128.6, 164.4.

5 Example 27

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-5S-(N-4"-ACETILCYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE

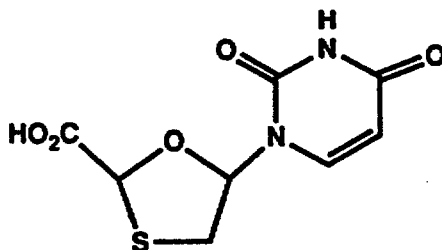


To a stirred suspension of N-4-acetylcytosine (68 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) containing 2,4,6-collidine (105 μL, 0.8 mmol) under an argon atmosphere was added trimethylsilyl trifluoromethane-sulphonate (155 μL, 0.8 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 15 minutes to give a homogeneous solution. The substrate, (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (110 mg, 0.333 mmol) was introduced into the above solution in one batch. In a separate flask equipped with a condensor, a solution of hexamethyldisilazane (34 μL, 0.167 mmol) and iodine (42 mg, 0.167 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) was refluxed under argon atmosphere for 30 minutes. After it had cooled to room temperature, the purple solution formed was transferred, via a syringe, into the mixture containing the substrate and silylated base.

The reaction mixture was kept at room temperature for 7 hours and then was quenched with a solution of a 1:1 mixture of saturated NaHCO_3 and $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$. The resulting mixture was stirred for 5 minutes and then was transferred to a separatory funnel with the aid of more dichloromethane. The aqueous phase was removed and the organic layer was washed with saturated $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, water, brine and then was dried (Na_2SO_4). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to provide 153 mg of crude product. To determine the ratio of the *cis*-[(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(N-4"-acetylcytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate] and *trans*-[(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-(N-4"-acetylcytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate] product isomers, the crude product was subjected to ^1H NMR analysis in CDCl_3 . Judging from the signals of the C6 protons of the cytosine moiety, the ratio of *cis* [δ 8.70 (d, $J=7.6$ Hz)] to *trans* [δ 7.79 (d, $J=7.6$ Hz)] was determined to be 7:1.

20 Example 28

CIS-2-CARBOXYL-5-(URACIL-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE

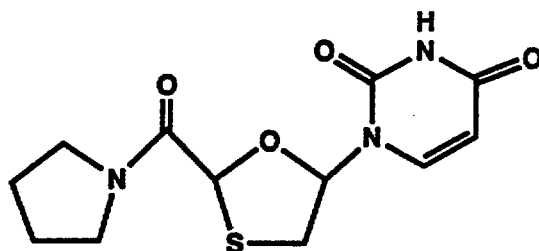


Iodotrimethylsilane (118 μL , 0.832 mmol) was added to a stirred suspension of bis-trimethylsilyl-uracil (122 mg, 0.475 mmol) and *trans*-2-carboxyl-5-

acetoxo-1,3-oxathiolane (76 mg, 0.396 mmol) in dichloromethane (2.5 mL) containing collidine (53 μ L, 0.396 mmol). The resultant mixture was stirred for 18 hours at room temperature under argon atmosphere and
5 then was quenched by the addition of 5 mL of a 0.5 M solution of sodium carbonate. The aqueous phase was acidified with 1 M HCl solution to pH 4, followed by extraction with tetrahydrofuran (3x6 mL). The combined extract was dried over MgSO_4 and the solvent was
10 removed under reduced pressure. The crude product obtained was triturated with dichloromethane to provide a white suspension. The white solid was isolated by centrifugation and was dried under vacuum to afford 27 mg of the desired product whose ^1H NMR spectrum
15 indicated the presence of a small amount of uracil (ca. 10%) and an isomeric purity of $\geq 95\%$. The title compound displayed the following spectral characteristics: ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO } d_6$) δ : 2.26 (d of d, 1H, $J=4.9, 12.3$ Hz), 3.49 (d of d, 1H, $J=5.2, 12.4$ Hz),
20 5.57 (s, 1H), 5.71 (d of d, 1H, $J=2.2, 8.0$ Hz; this signal collapsed to a doublet on treatment with D_2O ($J=8.2$ Hz)), 6.29 (t, 1H, $J=5.2$ Hz), 8.07 (d, 1H, $J=8.2$ Hz), 11.41 (br s, 1H, exchanged with D_2O).

Example 29

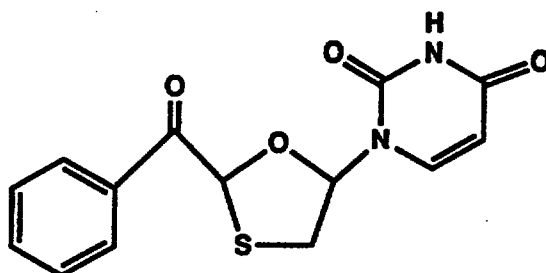
CIS 2-(1'-PYRROLIDINOCARBONYL)-5-(URACIL-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE



Iodotrimethylsilane (37 μ L, 1 equivalent) was
5 added to a stirred solution of *cis* 2-(1'-pyrrolidino-
carbonyl)-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane (64 mg, 0.26 mmol)
and *bis*-trimethylsilyluracil (80 mg, 1.2 equivalents)
in dichloromethane (1.5 mL) under argon atmosphere.
The reaction mixture was kept for 1 hour and 20 minutes
10 at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with a
solution of a 1:1 mixture of saturated $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ and
 NaHCO_3 (2 mL), followed by dilution with
dichloromethane (4 mL). The resultant mixture was
stirred for 5 minutes and then was transferred to a
15 separatory funnel with the aid of more dichloromethane.
The aqueous phase was removed and the organic phase was
washed with water, brine, and dried over anhydrous
 Na_2SO_4 . Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure
and subjection of the crude product thus obtained to
20 column chromatography (7% MeOH-EtOAc) afforded the 74
mg (95%) of the title compound; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.85-
2.00 (m, 2H), 2.00-2.15 (m, 2H), 3.25-3.70 (m, 6H), 5.61
(s, 1H), 5.80 (d of d, 1H, $J=2.3, 8.2$ Hz), 6.44 (d of
d, 1H, $J=4.8, 7.0$ Hz), 8.29 (br s, 1H), 8.88 (d, 1H,
25 $J=8.1$ Hz).

Example 30

CIS 2-BENZOYL-5-(URACIL-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE

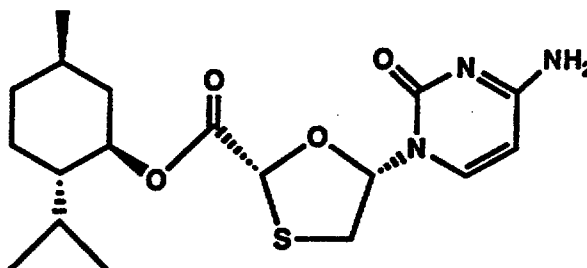


Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulphonate (92 μ L, 0.475 mmol) was introduced to a stirred suspension
5 of uracil (50 mg, 0.238 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.5 mL) containing collidine (63 μ L, 0.475 mmol) under argon atmosphere. The resultant mixture was stirred for 15 minutes to provide a homogeneous solution. A mixture (2.4:1, trans:cis) of 2-benzoyl-5-acetoxy-1,3-
10 oxathiolane (50 mg, 0.198 mmol) was added as a solution in dichloromethane (1.5 mL), followed by iodotrimethylsilane (28 μ L, 0.198 mmol). The reaction was allowed to proceed for 22 hours and then was quenched with a solution of a 1:1 mixture of saturated
15 NaHCO_3 and $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$. The resulting mixture was stirred for 5 minutes and then was transferred to a separatory funnel with the aid of more dichloromethane. The aqueous phase was removed and the organic layer was washed with saturated $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, water, brine and then was
20 dried (Na_2SO_4). Thin layer chromatography analysis of the crude product indicated that small amount of the starting material remain unreacted. The crude product was triturated with EtOAc to provide 26 mg (43%) of the

title compound as a white solid; ^1H NMR (DMSO): δ 3.19 (d of d, 1H, d of d, $J=6.8, 12.1$ Hz), 3.60 (d of d, 1H, $J=5.1, 12.2$ Hz), 5.77 (d, 1H, $J=8.2$ Hz), 6.38 (d of d, 1H, $J=5.2, 6.9$ Hz), 6.81 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.64 (m, 2H),
5 7.66-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.94-8.04 (m, 2H), 8.22 (d, 1H, $J=8.1$ Hz), 11.44 (br s, 1H).

Example 31

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5S-(CYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE

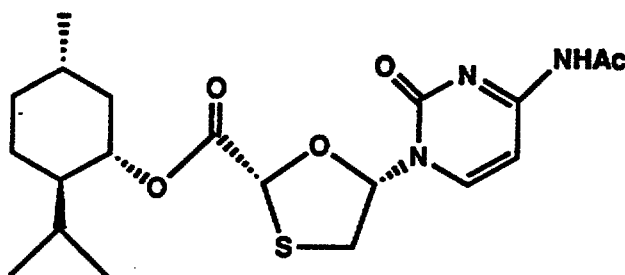


10 A 12:1 mixture of (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl 5S-(N-4''-acetylcytosin-1''-yl)-oxathiolane-2R-oxathiolane carboxylate (*cis* isomer) and (1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl 5R-(N-4''-acetylcytosin-1''-yl)-oxathiolane-2R-oxathiolane carboxylate (*trans* isomer) (47 mg, 0.11 mmol) was
15 dissolved in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) and 2-propanol (1 mL). Trifluoroacetic acid (0.2 mL) was added to this solution and the resultant mixture was heated at 60°C for 2 hours and then was kept at room temperature for 14.5 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with
20 dichloromethane and washed with saturated NaHCO_3 solution, water, brine, and then was dried (anhydrous Na_2SO_4). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the product obtained was dried under vacuum to

afford 40 mg (95%) of the title compounds. The ^1H NMR spectrum of the above material suggested a purity of $\geq 97\%$. Based on the signals derived from the C6 hydrogen of the cytosine moiety present in both of the isomers, the 12:1 ratio of the *cis* [δ 8.38 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz)] and *trans* [δ 7.48 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz)] nucleosides was maintained. The major compound was obtained by fractional crystallization with methanol and displayed physical properties identical to those reported in this example.

Example 32

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-5S-(N-4"-ACETILCYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE

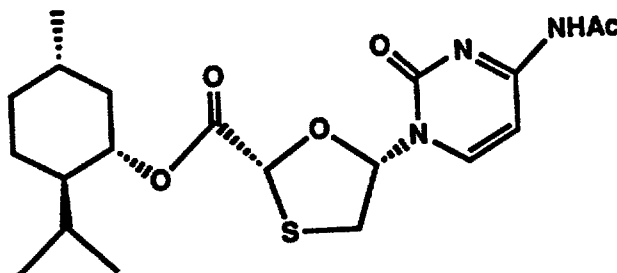


(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl 5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (55 mg, 0.166 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) and iodotrimethylsilane (0.026 mL, 0.166 mmol) were added to monosilylated N-4-acetylcytosine (59 mg, 0.198 mmol), generated by refluxing N-4-acetylcytosine in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexamethyl-20 disilazane (HMDS) overnight in the presence of catalytic amount of ammonium sulfate and subsequently removing HMDS, in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) under argon atmosphere at room temperature. The stirring was continued for 19 hours and thin layer chromatography 25 showed almost complete consumption of the starting

oxathiolane. The reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate, aqueous sodium thiosulfate and brine, dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated and dried to afford 70 mg (100%) of crude products. ¹H NMR suggested *cis:trans* ratio at 15:1 and the presence of ca. 4.6% of unreacted oxathiolane. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 0.78 (d, 3H), 0.80-2.10 (m, 15H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 3.12-3.30 (m, 1H) 3.52-3.78 (m, 1H), 4.78 (m, 1H), 5.51 (s, 0.896H), 5.60 (s, 0.046H), 5.82 (s, 0.058H), δ 6.42 (t, 0.896H), 6.63 (dd, 0.046 H), 6.68 (d, 0.058H), 7.47 (d, 0.954H), 7.77 (d, 0.058H), 8.70 (d, 0.896H). The major compound was isolated by crystallization from methanol or trituration with ethylacetate-ether mixtures.

15 Example 33

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-5S-(N-4"-ACETILCYTOSIN-1"-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE

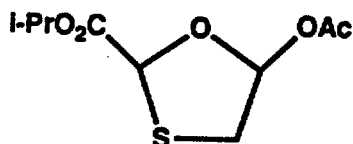


2,6-lutidine (0.023 mL, 0.199 mmol) and trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.038 mmol, 0.199 mmol) were added to N-4-acetylcytosine (30.5 mg, 0.199 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.2 mL) at room temperature under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 20 minutes and a solution of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (55 mg, 0.166 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.3 mL) and iodotrimethyl-silane (0.026 mL, 0.166 mmol) were

introduced successively. The stirring was continued for 2.5 hour and thin layer chromatography showed complete consumption of the starting oxathiolane. The reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate, aqueous sodium thiosulfate and brine, dried over sodium sulfate, concentrate and dried to afford 70 mg (100%) of crude products. ¹H NMR suggested *cis:trans* ratio at 10:1 and no other impurity detectable by the spectrum. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 0.78 (d, 3H), 0.80-2.10 (m, 15H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 3.16 (dd, 0.91H), 3.25 (d, 0.09H), 3.63 (dd, 0.91H), 3.74 (dd, 0.09H), 4.78 (m, 1H), 5.51 (s, 0.91H), 5.82 (s, 0.09H); δ 6.42 (t, 0.91H), 6.68 (d, 0.09H), 7.47 (d, 1H), 7.77 (d, 0.09H), 8.70 (d, 0.91H).

Example 34

CIS- AND TRANS- ISOPROPYL 5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLATE



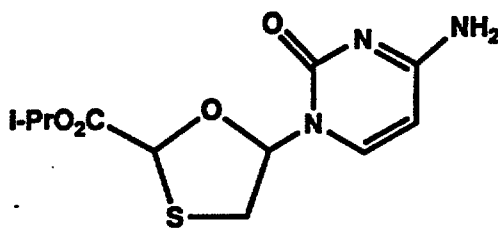
A solution of *cis-* and *trans* 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (260 mg, 1.3528 mmol) and isopropanol (0.11 mL, 1.3528 mmol) in dichloromethane (4 mL) at 0°C was treated with dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) (279 mg, 1.3528 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL) and 4 dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) (14 mg, 0.135 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight,

then diluted with ether and filtered through a Celite® pad. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel with ethyl acetate-hexane to give the products as a colorless oil (263 mg, 83%).

- 5 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.26 (6H, d); 2.10, 2.11 (3H, s); 3.13-3.46 (2H, m); 5.05 (1H, m); 5.60, 5.61 (1H, s); 6.63 (0.54H, m); 6.78 (0.46H, d).

Example 35

- 10 CIS-ISOPROPYL-5-(CYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLATE



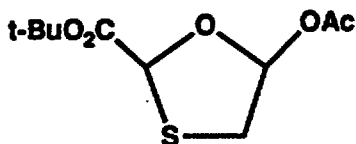
- 2,4,6-collidine (0.23 mL, 1.74 mmol) and t-butyl-dimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.4 mL, 1.74 mmol) were added to a suspension of cytosine (96.7 mg, 0.87 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.8 mL) at room temperature under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 25 minutes and a solution of *cis:trans* (1.2:1) isopropyl 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate (168 mg, 0.717 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.8 mL) and a solution of iodotrimethylsilane (0.114 mL, 0.788 mmol) were introduced successively. Stirring was continued for one hour and the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate, water and brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was trituated with ether-hexane (1:1, 7 mL) and saturated

aqueous sodium bicarbonate (1.5 mL). The aqueous layer was removed and the remaining mixture was centrifuged.

The solid was washed twice with hexanes and the washings were combined with centrifugate, washed with 1N HCl, water and brine, dried and concentrated to give the unreacted starting material in virtually pure form (64 mg, 38%, *cis:trans*=1:9). The white solid was dried and gave the products as a *cis:trans* mixture in 12:1 ratio (122.6 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.30 (t, 6H), 3.11 (dd, 1H), 3.52 (dd, 1H), 5.11 (m, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 5.82 (d, 1H), 6.47 (dd, 0.92H), 6.72 (m, 0.08H), 7.49 (d, 0.08H), 8.32 (d, 0.92H).

Example 36

CIS- AND TRANS- T-BUTYL 5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLATE

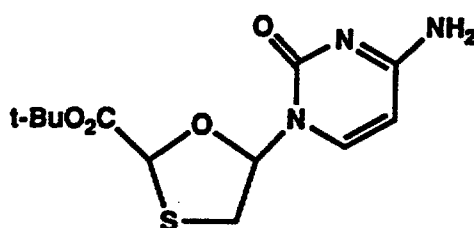


A solution of *cis*- and *trans*- 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (176 mg, 0.915 mmol) and *t*-butanol (0.095 mL, 0.915 mmol) in dichloromethane (4 mL) at 0°C was treated with DCC (207 mg, 1 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL) and DMAP (11 mg, 0.09 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, then diluted with ether and filtered through a Celite® pad. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel with ethyl acetate-hexane to give the products as a colorless oil (175 mg, 77%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.46 (9H, d); 2.07, 2.09 (3H, s); 3.10-3.44 (2H, m); 5.50, 5.52 (1H, s); 6.60 (0.42H, m); 6.74 (0.58H, d).

Example 37

5 CIS-T-BUTYL-5-(CYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLATE

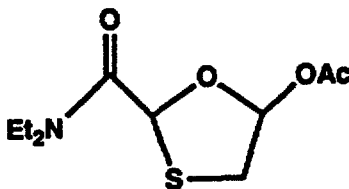


2,4,6-collidine (0.187 mL, 1.4 mmol) and t-butyl-dimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.325 mL, 1.4 mmol) were added to a suspension of cytosine
10 (78.6 mg, 0.7 mmol) in dichloro-methane (0.6 mL) at room temperature under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 25 minutes and a mixture of *cis* and *trans* (1:1.4) t-butyl 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate (146.5 mg, 0.59 mmol) in dichloromethane
15 (0.6 mL) and iodotrimethylsilane (0.092 mL, 0.65 mmol) were introduced successively. Stirring was continued for one hour and the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate, water and brine, dried over sodium sulfate
20 and concentrated. The residue was triturated with ether-hexanes (1:1, 7 mL) and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (1.5 mL). The aqueous layer was removed and the remaining mixture was centrifuged. The solid was washed twice with hexanes and the washings were

combined with the centrifugate, washed with 1N HCl, water and brine, dried and concentrated to give the unreacted starting material in virtually pure form (77 mg, 52.6%, *cis:trans*=1:11). The white solid was dried
5 and gave the products as a *cis:trans* mixture in 16:1 ratio (82.6 mg, 46.4%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.50, 1.52 (s, 9H), 3.12 (dd, 0.94H), 3.20 (dd, 0.06H), 3.52 (dd, 0.94H), 3.72 (dd, 0.06H), 5.37 (s, 0.94H), 5.75 (s, 0.06H), 5.82 (d, 1H), 6.44 (dd, 0.94H), 6.71 (d,
10 0.06H), 7.49 (d, 0.06H), 8.38 (d, 0.98H).

Example 38

CIS- AND TRANS-2-N,N-DIETHYLAMINOCARBONYL-5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE

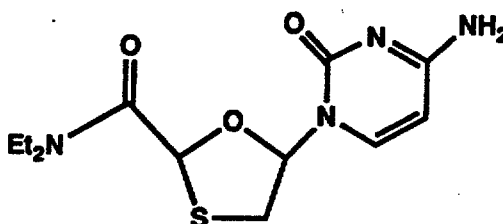


A solution of *cis-* and *trans*-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (119 mg, 0.62 mmol) and diethylamine (0.07 mL, 0.68 mmol) in dichloromethane (2 mL) at 0°C was treated with DCC (140 mg, 0.68 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL) and DMAP (7.6 mg, 0.06 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight,
20 then diluted with ether and filtered through a Celite® pad. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel with ethyl acetate-hexane to give the products as a colorless oil (84.5 mg, 55%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.10, 1.40 (6H, t); 2.07, 2.10 (3H,

s); 3.15-3.56 (6H, m); 5.80, 5.87 (1H, s); 6.58 (0.53H, m); 6.83 (0.47H, d).

Example 39

5 CIS-2-N,N-DIETHYLAMINOCARBONYL-5-(CYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-OXATHIOLANE

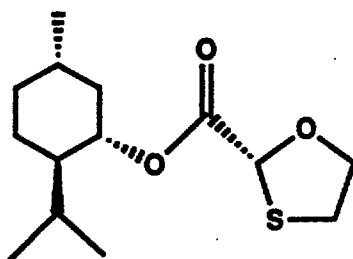


2,4,6-collidine (0.108 mL, 0.82 mmol) and t-butyl-dimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.188 mL, 0.82 mmol) were added to a suspension of cytosine (45.5 mg, 0.41 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.4 mL) at
10 room temperature under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 25 minutes and a mixture of *cis* and *trans* (1.12:1) 2-N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane (84 mg, 0.34 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.4 mL) and a solution of iodotrimethylsilane (0.053
15 mL, 0.375 mmol) were introduced successively. Stirring was continued for one hour and the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate, water and brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was
20 triturated with ether-hexane (1:1, 7 mL) and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (1.5 mL). The aqueous layer was removed and the remaining mixture was centrifuged. The solid was washed twice with hexanes and the washings were combined with centrifugate, washed with
25 1N HCl, water and brine, dried and concentrated to give

the unreacted starting material in virtually pure form (17 mg, 20%, trans only). The white solid was dried to give the products as a *cis:trans* mixture in 24:1 ratio (47.5 mg, 47.5%). ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 1.04 (t, 3H, $J=7$ Hz), 1.12 (t, 3H, $J=7$ Hz), 3.17 (dd, 1H, $J=5$ Hz, 9 Hz), 3.30 (m, 4H), 3.53 (dd, 1H, $J=5$ Hz, 9 Hz), 5.74 (d, 1H, $J=7$ Hz), 5.96 (s, 1H), 6.28 (t, 0.96H, $J=5$ Hz), 6.62 (m, 0.04H), 7.16 (b.s., NH), 7.22 (b.s., NH), 7.60 (d, 0.04H), 8.46 (d, 0.96H, $J=7$ Hz).

10 Example 40

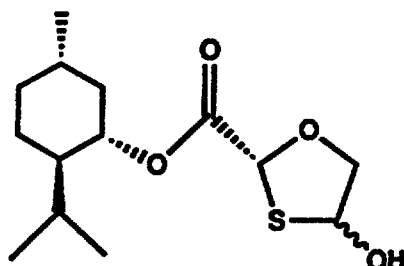
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE



To a mixture of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (2.01 g, 6.08 mmol) and triethylsilane (9.67 mL, 60.05 mmol) at room temperature under argon atmosphere was added trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.17 mL, 6.04 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours, then diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* to afford crude product. Subsequent chromatography on silica gel using hexane-ethyl acetate as eluate gave the product as colourless oil (1.33 g, 80.5%) ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.75-2.10 (m, 15H), 2.97-3.20 (m, 2H), 4.20-4.40 (m, 2H), 4.72 (dt, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H) $[\alpha]_D^{+104^\circ}$ (c 1.16, CHCl_3).

Example 41

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-4R-HYDROXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE AND (1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-4S-HYDROXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE

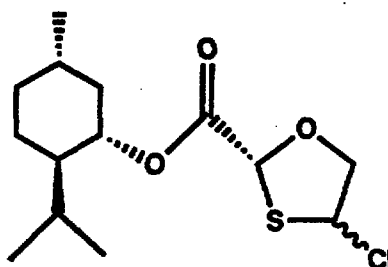


5 A mixture of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (0.500 g, 1.84 mmol) and benzoylperoxide (0.489 g, 97%, 1.96 mmol) in 20 mL benzene was heated to reflux for 6 hours. The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was
10 diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* to afford crude benzoate product. Subsequent chromatography by using hexane-ethyl acetate as eluate
15 gave the benzoate as a solid (0.21 g, 30.3%). The mixture of the benzoate (0.200 g, 0.531 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.073 g, 0.532 mmol) in THF-MeOH-H₂O (4 mL/5 mL/2 mL) was stirred at 0°C for 7 hours and organic solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was
20 diluted with H₂O (7 mL), extracted with ether (10 mL), acidified with aqueous HCl, and extracted with dichloromethane. The dichloromethane layer was dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* to afford crude product. Subsequent chromatography
25 using hexane ether as eluent gave the product as a

solid (67 mg, 43.7%) ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.75-2.10 (m, 15H), 4.03-4.83 (m, 2H), 5.52-5.75 (m, 2H).

Example 42

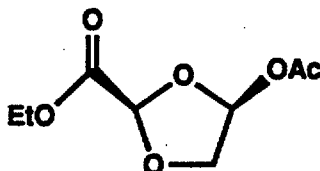
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-4R-CHLORO-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE AND (1'S,2'R,5'S)-MENTHYL-4S-CHLORO-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE



To a mixture of (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4R-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate and (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4S-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate (40mg, 0.138 mmol) and methytrifluoromethansulfonyl chloride (18.24 μL , 0.239 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) at room temperature under argon atmosphere was added triethylamine (57.99 mL, 0.416 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours then diluted with dichloromethane, washed with saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and evaporated to dryness in vacuo to afford crude product. Subsequent chromatography by using hexane ether as eluent gave the product as two diastereomers (18 mg, 42.3%, 14.6 mg, 34.2%) epimeric at C4. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.75-2.05 (m, 15H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.69 (m, 1H), 5.75 (m, 1H), 5.80 (m, 1H); δ 0.75-2.10 (m, 15H), 4.33 (m, 1H), 4.78 (m, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 5.68 (m, 1H).

Example 43

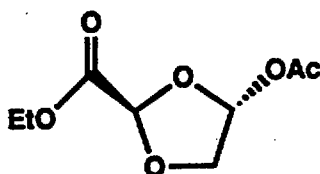
CIS 2-CARBOETHOXY-4-ACETOXY-1,3-DIOXOLANE



A 2.5:1 mixture of *cis* and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-acetyl-1,3-dioxolane (406 mg, 2.16 mmol),
5 85% meta-chloroperbenzoic acid (mCPBA) (68 mg, 3.81 mmol) and sodium carbonate (389 mg, 3.67 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (10 mL) was stirred under argon for 16 hours at room temperature. The resultant suspension was diluted with dichloromethane and water and stirred
10 for 10 minutes. The aqueous phase was removed and the organic phase was washed successively with saturated sodium thiosulfate, water, brine and then was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product
15 thus obtained was subjected to flash column chromatography (30% EtOAc-Hexanes) to give the title compound (11% yield) which displayed the following spectral characteristics; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.31 (t, 3H, $J=7.2$ Hz), 2.07 (s, 1H), 4.15 (d of d, 1H, $J=4.5, 9.1$ Hz), 4.21-4.29 (m, 3H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 6.39 (d of d, 1H, $J=2.4, 4.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 14.05, 20.97, 29.69, 71.34, 94.04, 99.80, 167.19, 170.11.
20

Example 44

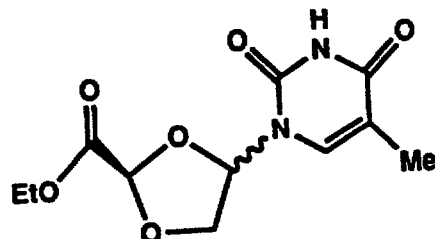
TRANS 2-CARBOETHOXY-4-ACETOXY-1,3-DIOXOLANE



- A 2.5:1 mixture of *cis* and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-acetyl-1,3-dioxolane (406 mg, 2.16 mmol),
- 5 85% mCPBA (68 mg, 3.81 mmol) and sodium carbonate (389 mg, 3.67 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (10 mL) was stirred under argon for 16 hours at room temperature. The resultant suspension was diluted with dichloromethane and water and stirred for 10 minutes.
- 10 The aqueous phase was removed and the organic phase was washed successively with saturated sodium thiosulfate, water, brine and then was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product thus obtained
- 15 was subjected to flash column chromatography (30% EtOAc-Hexanes) to give the title compound (49% yield) which displayed the following spectral characteristics; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.29 (t, 3H, J=7.2 Hz), 2.09 (s, 1H), 4.12 (d of d, 1H, J=0.9, 9.1 Hz), 4.19-4.31 (m, 3H),
- 20 5.53 (s, 1H), 6.48 (d of d, 1H, J=0.9, 3.9 Hz).

Example 45

CIS AND TRANS 2-CARBOETHOXY-4-(THYMIN-1'-YL)-1,3-DIOXOLANE

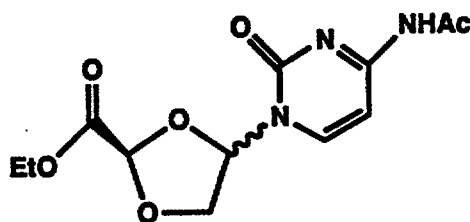


- To a stirred suspension of thymine (44.5 mg, 0.353 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL) containing 2,6-lutidine (82 μ L, 0.706 mmol) under an argon atmosphere was added trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulphonate (136 μ L, 0.706 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 15 minutes to give a homogeneous solution.
- 5 A solution of the substrate, ethyl 4-acetoxy-1,3-dioxolane-2-carboxylate (60 mg, 0.294 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL) and iodotrimethylsilane (42 μ L, 0.294 mmol) was sequentially introduced into the above solution. The reaction mixture was stirred at room
- 10 temperature for 5 hours and then was quenched with a half-saturated solution of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 mL), followed by dilution with dichloromethane (5 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred for 5 minutes and then was transferred to a separatory funnel with the aid of more
- 15 dichloromethane. The aqueous phase was removed and the organic layer was washed with saturated $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, water, 1 M HCl, brine and then was dried (Na_2SO_4). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to provide the crude product. This material was suspended in
- 20 dichloromethane (~ 1.5 mL) and then was triturated with a 1:1 mixture of EtOAc-Hexane (~ 6 mL) to give 25 mg of
- 25

the *cis* nucleoside as a white solid; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO } d_6$): δ 1.23 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz), 1.78 (d, 3H, $J=1$ Hz), 4.15-4.30 (m, 4H), 4.38 (d of d, 1H, $J=2.3, 9.8$ Hz), 5.33 (s, 1H), 6.33 (d of d, 1H, $J=2.3, 5.8$ Hz), 7.52 (d, 1H, $J=1.1$, Hz), 11.42 (br s, 1H). The triturate was concentrated and subjected to column chromatography (70% EtOAc-Hexane) to afford 26 mg of the two nucleoside as a 1:1 mixture; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.33 (t, 1.5H, $J=7.2$ Hz), 1.35 (t, 1.5H, $J=7.2$ Hz), 1.91-1.99 (two overlapping d, 3H), 4.16 (d of d, 0.5H, $J=1.9, 9.7$ Hz), 4.20-4.38 (m, 3H), 4.53 (d of d, 0.5H, $J=5.8, 9.7$ Hz), 5.30 (s, 0.5H), 5.72 (s, 0.5H), 6.44 (d of d, 0.5H, $J=3.3, 5.4$ Hz), 6.60 (d of d, 0.5H, $J=2.0, 5.8$ Hz), 7.10 (d, 0.5H, $J=1.3$ Hz), 7.75 (d, 0.5H, $J=1.3$ Hz), 9.40 (br s, 0.5H), 9.43 (br s, 0.5H).

Example 46

CIS AND TRANS 2-CARBOETHOXY-4-(N-4'-ACETYLCYTOSIN-1'-YL)-1,3-DIOXOLANE

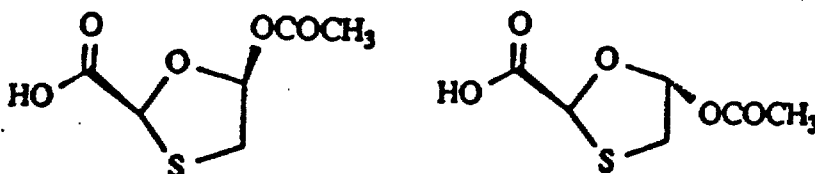


To a stirred suspension of N-acetylcytosine (66 mg, 0.430 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (1.5 mL) under an argon atmosphere was added, successively, 2,6-lutidine (100 μL , 0.859 mmol) and trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulphonate (166 μL , 0.859 mmol). The resultant mixture was stirred for 25 minutes to produce

a homogeneous solution. A solution of a 4:1 mixture of *cis* and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-acetoxy-1,3-dioxolane (73 mg, 0.358 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) was then introduced, followed by iodotrimethylsilane (51 μL , 0.358 mmol).
5 The reaction was allowed to proceed for 16 hours and then was quenched with saturated sodium thiosulfate. The resulting mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and was washed successively with saturated sodium thiosulfate, water, brine, and then was dried over anhydrous
10 magnesium sulfate. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure gave the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography (2% MeOH-EtOAc) to afford 44% of the title compounds as a 3:1 mixture of the *cis* and *trans* isomers; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.34 (t, 3H, $J=7.0$ Hz), 2.28 (s, 0.75H), 2.29 (s, 0.25H), 4.21-4.35 (m, 3H), 4.36 (d of d, 0.75 H, $J=5.2, 9.9$ Hz), 4.59 (d of d, 0.25H, $J=5.2, 9.9$ Hz), 5.39 (s, 0.75H), 5.77 (s, 0.25H), 6.24 (d of d, 0.75H, $J=2.8, 5.1$ Hz), 6.39 (d of d, 0.25H, $J=1.7, 5.1$ Hz), 7.49 (2
15 overlapping doublets, 1H), 7.79 (d, 0.25H, $J=7.6$ Hz), 8.40 (d, 0.75H, $J=7.6$ Hz), 9.95 (br s, 1H).

Example 47

(±)-CIS AND TRANS-5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLIC ACID

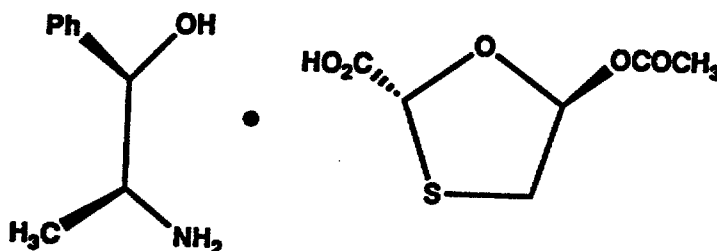


Trans-5-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (250 g, 1.67 mol) was added, in portions, to a stirred solution of acetic anhydride (0.625 L, 6.62 mol) and methanesulphonic acid (5 mL, 77 mmol) at room temperature. The resultant clear solution was stirred at room temperature for 60 minutes, slowly added to stirred aqueous 0.03 M sodium bicarbonate solution (2.5L) and then the mixture was stirred for a further 60 minutes. Sodium chloride (750 g, 12.83 mol) was added and the mixture was stirred for a further 30 minutes, clarified, and then extracted with isopropyl acetate (1 x 1.25 L, 3 x 0.625 L). The combined extracts were concentrated to 1.25 L under reduced pressure. Xylene (2.5 L) was added and the mixture reconcentrated to 1.25 L under reduced pressure. The xylene addition/reconcentration procedure was repeated and the resultant suspension was cooled to room temperature and stirred for 18 hours. The solid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with xylene (2 x 0.25 L) and dried, *in vacuo*, at 40-45° to give the title compound (265 g, 83%) which was shown, by

comparison of ^1H NMR spectra, to be a 65:35 mixture of the compounds of Examples 3 and 4.

Example 48

5 **5R-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLIC ACID, SALT WITH 1S,2R- α -(1-AMINOETHYL)BENZENEMETHANOL (1:1)**

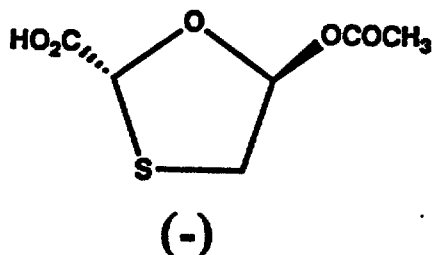


a) . A solution of 1S,2R- α -(1-aminoethyl)-benzenemethanol (125.9 g, 0.83 mol) in isopropyl acetate (0.5L) was added to a stirred solution of ($\pm$) *cis-/trans*-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid
 10 (Example 47; 400 g, 2.08 mol), in isopropyl acetate (4.2 L), at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere. The resultant solution was stirred for 10 minutes, seeded with authentic product (0.4 g) and stirred for a further 4 hours at room temperature. The
 15 suspension was stirred at 15-18° for 17 hours and the solid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with isopropyl acetate (1 x. 0.4 L, 1 x 0.2 L) and dried, in vacuo, at 45° to give the title compound (205.9 g, 28%). $[\alpha]_D^{+34}$ (MeOH), mp 151-2° (decomp), δ (DMSO- D_6)
 20 0.91 (d, 3H, J=6.8 Hz), 2.05 (s, 3H), 3.04 (d, 1H, J=11 Hz), 3.32 (dd, 1H, J=4.2 Hz), 3.40 (dq, 1H, J=6.8, 2.4 Hz), 4.97 (d, 1H, J=2.4 Hz), 5.34 (s, 1H), ca. 6.4 (br, 1H), 7.2-7.4 (m, 5H), ca. 8.3 (br, 3H).

b) A solution of 1S,2R- α -(1-aminoethyl)-benzenemethanol (177 mg, 1.17 mmol) in isopropyl acetate (1 mL) was added to a stirred solution of (+)-trans-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid (500 mg, 2.60 mmol) in isopropyl acetate (6 mL) at 25-30°, and further isopropyl acetate (0.5 mL) was added. Crystallisation commenced after 5 minutes. The suspension was stirred at 25-30° for 18 hours and then the solid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with isopropyl acetate (1 mL) and dried, *in vacuo*, at 40° to give the title compound (353 mg, 40%), as shown by comparison of its ¹H NMR spectrum with that of part (a).

Example 49

15 (-)-TRANS-5-ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2-CARBOXYLIC ACID

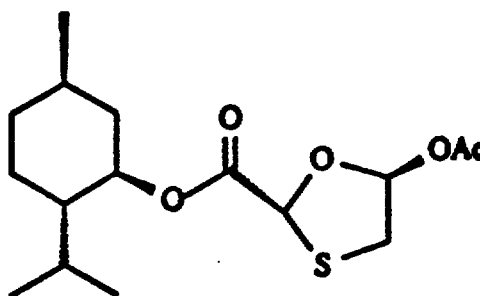


5 M-Aqueous hydrochloric acid (126 mL, 0.63 mol) was added to a stirred suspension of the compound of Example 48 (180 g, 0.52 mol) in saturated aqueous sodium chloride (414 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes, cooled to 10° and stirred at this temperature for a further 30 minutes. The solid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with chilled water (2 x 90 mL) and

dried, in vacuo, at 33° to give the title compound (81.3 g, 81%).

Example 50

5 (1'R,2'S,5'R)-MENTHYL-5R ACETOXY-1,3-OXATHIOLANE-2R-CARBOXYLATE



a) A solution of oxalyl chloride (66.5 g, 0.52 mol) in dichloromethane (120 mL) was added over 30 minutes to a stirred cold (-5°) mixture of N,N-dimethylformamide (32 mL) and dichloromethane (240 mL),
10 and the suspension formed was stirred at -5 to 0° for 30 minutes. The compound of Example 49 (80 g, 0.42 mol) was added in portions and the resultant yellow solution was stirred at 0° for 45 minutes. This solution was added over 60 minutes to a stirred, cold
15 (-5°) solution of (1R,2S,5R)-(-)-menthol (65.2 g, 0.425 mol) in dichloromethane (200 mL) and pyridine (84mL, 1.04mol) and the resultant suspension was stirred at 0-5° for a further 2 hours.

The reaction mixture was washed with 2 M-
20 aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 x 240 mL, 1 x 160 mL) and the combined aqueous acidic washes were back extracted with dichloromethane (160 mL). The organic phases were combined, clarified, and concentrated in vacuo to c.a. 240 mL, 2,2,4-trimethylpentane (400 mL) was added and
25 the solution concentrated, in vacuo, to 240 mL.

Crystallisation of the product occurred during the distillation. Further 2,2,4-trimethylpentane (400 mL) was added and the mixture concentrated to c.a. 700 mL. The stirred suspension was then cooled to 5° and aged
5 for 60 minutes. The solid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with 2,2,4-trimethylpentane (2 x 80 mL) and dried, *in vacuo*, at 33° to give the title compound (93.2 g, 68%) as shown by comparison of the ¹H NMR spectrum with that of Example 8.

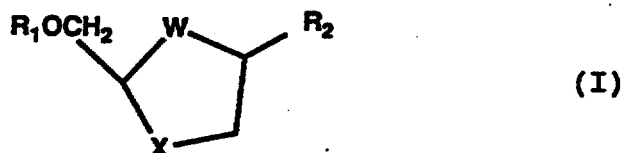
10 b) Oxalyl chloride (102 g, 0.80 mol) was added over 20 minutes to a stirred, cold (-10°) mixture of N,N-dimethylformamide (63 mL) and dichloromethane (840 mL) and the suspension formed was stirred at -10° to -6° for 15 minutes. The compound of Example B (140
15 g, 0.728 mol) was added and the resultant pale yellow solution was stirred at -8° for 20 minutes.
(1R,2S,5R)-(-)-Menthol (126 g, 0.80 mol) was added followed by pyridine (140 mL, 1.73 mol), added over 50 minutes. The suspension formed was stirred at -9° for
20 18 hours and then 1 M aqueous hydrochloric acid (280 mL) was added. The separated aqueous acid phase was extracted with dichloromethane (140 mL) and the combined organic phases were washed with 1 M aqueous hydrochloric acid (280 mL). The aqueous phase was back
25 extracted with dichloromethane (140 mL) and the combined organic phases were washed with a solution containing sodium hydrogen carbonate (5.6 g) and sodium chloride (28 g) in water (266 mL). The aqueous phase was back extracted with dichloromethane (140 mL) and
30 the combined organic phases were clarified and concentrated to 560 mL by distillation at atmospheric pressure. 2,2,4-Trimethylpentane (700 mL) was added and the solution was concentrated, *in vacuo*, to 700 mL. The 2,2,4-trimethylpentane addition/reconcentration
35 procedure was repeated, and the resultant solution was

cooled to 17° (seeded with authentic product (0.7 g) at 34° and 23°). The suspension was stirred at 17° for 2 hours and the solid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with 2,2,4-trimethylpentane (2 x 70 mL) and
5 dried, *in vacuo*, at 43° to give the title compound (332 g, 14%) as shown by comparison of the ¹H NMR spectrum with that of Example 8).

While we have presented a number of embodiments of our invention, many alternatives,
10 modifications and variations of these embodiments will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, it will be appreciated that the scope of this invention is to be defined by the following claims, rather than the specific examples presented
15 above.

Claims:

1. A diastereoselective process for producing optically active cis-nucleoside and nucleoside analogues and derivatives of formula (I)



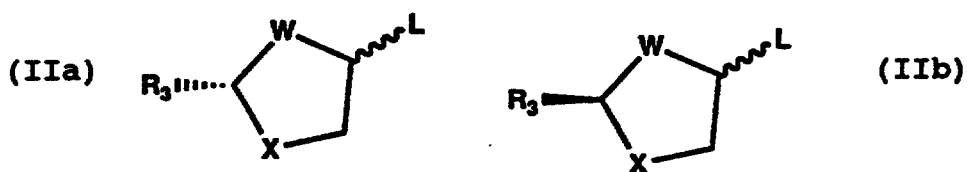
wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

R₁ is hydrogen or acyl; and

R₂ is a desired purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue or derivative thereof

the process comprising the step of glycosylating the desired purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative thereof with an intermediate of formula (IIa) or (IIb)



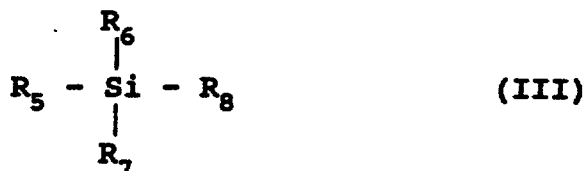
wherein R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative; and

L is a leaving group,

using a Lewis acid of the formula (III)

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wherein R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-20} alkyl optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro, iodo, C_{1-6} alkoxy or C_{6-20} aryloxy; C_{7-20} aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-20} alkyl or C_{1-20} alkoxy; C_{6-20} aryl optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro, iodo, C_{1-20} alkyl or C_{1-20} alkoxy; trialkylsilyl; fluoro; bromo; chloro and iodo; and

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro; bromo; chloro; iodo; C_{1-20} sulphonate esters, optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro or iodo; C_{1-20} alkyl esters optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro or iodo; polyvalent halides; trisubstituted silyl groups of the general formula $(R_5)(R_6)(R_7)Si$ (wherein R_5 , R_6 , and R_7 are as defined above); saturated or unsaturated selenenyl C_{6-20} aryl; substituted or unsubstituted C_{6-20} arylsulfenyl; substituted or unsubstituted C_{6-20} alkoxyalkyl; and trialkylsiloxo.

2. The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of reducing R_3 of the glycosylated purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative thereof to produce the optically active *cis*-nucleoside or nucleoside analogue or derivative of formula (I).

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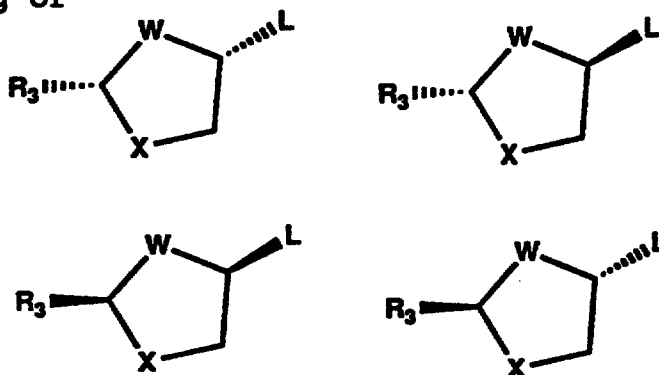


3. The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of producing the intermediate of (IIa) or (IIb) by chemically resolving said intermediate from a mixture of (IIa) and (IIb) using a chiral auxiliary.

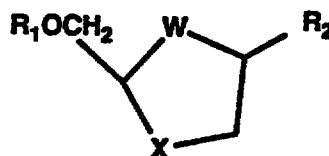
4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate is the compound of formula (IIa).

5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate is the compound of formula (IIb).

6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate is selected from the group consisting of



7. A diastereoselective process for producing optically active cis-nucleoside and nucleoside analogues and derivatives of formula (I)



(I)

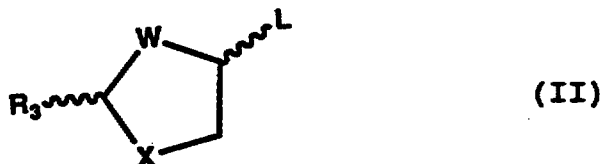
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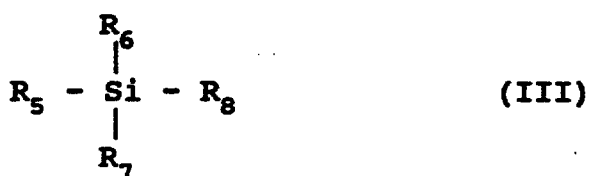


wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 R₁ is hydrogen or acyl; and
 R₂ is a desired purine or pyrimidine base or
 an analogue or derivative thereof

the process comprising the step of glycosylating the
 desired purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or
 derivative thereof with a single enantiomer of a
 compound of formula (II)



wherein R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl
 derivative; and
 L is a leaving group,
 using a Lewis acid of the formula (III)



wherein R₅, R₆ and R₇ are independently selected from
 the group consisting of hydrogen; C₁₋₂₀ alkyl
 optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo,
 chloro, iodo, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₆₋₂₀ aryloxy;
 C₇₋₂₀ aralkyl optionally substituted by
 halogen, C₁₋₂₀ alkyl or C₁₋₂₀ alkoxy; C₆₋₂₀
 aryl optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo,
 chloro, iodo, C₁₋₂₀ alkyl or C₁₋₂₀ alkoxy;



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trialkylsilyl; fluoro; bromo; chloro and iodo; and

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro; bromo; chloro; iodo; C_{1-20} sulphonate esters, optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro or iodo; C_{1-20} alkyl esters optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro or iodo; polyvalent halides; trisubstituted silyl groups of the general formula $(R_5)(R_6)(R_7)Si$ (wherein R_5 , R_6 , and R_7 are as defined above); saturated or unsaturated selenenyl C_{6-20} aryl; substituted or unsubstituted C_{6-20} arylsulfenyl; substituted or unsubstituted C_{6-20} alkoxyalkyl; and trialkylsiloxo.

8. The process according to claim 7, further comprising the step of reducing R_3 of the glycosylated purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative thereof to produce the optically active *cis*-nucleoside or nucleoside analogue or derivative of formula (I).

9. The process according to claim 7, further comprising the step of resolving the compound of formula (II) into a single enantiomer using a chiral auxiliary before glycosylating the desired purine or pyrimidine base.

10. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein W is O and X is S.

11. The process according to claim 10, wherein R_2 is a pyrimidine base.



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12. The process according to claim 11, wherein the pyrimidine base is cytosine or 5-fluorocytosine.

13. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the Lewis acid is selected from the group consisting of trimethylsilyl triflate and iodotrimethylsilane.

14. The process according to claim 3 or 9, wherein the chiral auxiliary is selected from the group consisting of chiral alcohols and chiral amines.

15. The process according to claim 14, wherein the chiral auxiliary is selected from the group consisting of (d)-menthol, (l)-menthol, (+)-norephedrine and (-)-norephedrine.

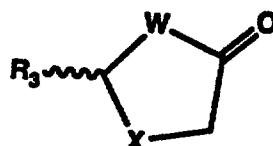
16. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxycarbonyls, carboxyls, diethylcarboxamide, pyrrolidine amide, methyl ketone and phenyl ketone.

17. The process according to claim 16, wherein the R_3 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxycarbonyls and carboxyls.

18. The process according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising the step of producing the compound of formula (II) by chemoselectively reducing the compound of formula (IV)

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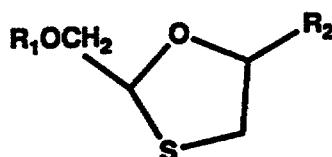


(IV)

and converting the resulting hydroxyl group to leaving group L.

19. The process according to claim 18, further comprising the step of reacting the compound of formula (IV) with a chiral auxiliary before it is chemoselectively reduced.

20. A diastereoselective process for producing optically active cis-oxathiolane and analogues and derivatives of formula (Ia)

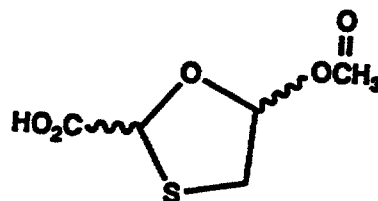


(Ia)

wherein R_1 is hydrogen or acyl; and

R_2 is a desired purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue or derivative thereof

comprising the step of glycosylating the desired purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or derivative thereof with a single enantiomer of a resolved ester derived from the compound of formula (IX)



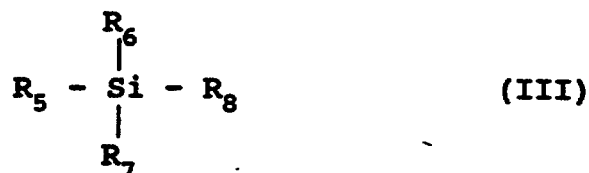
(IX)

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using a Lewis acid of the formula (III)



wherein R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-20} alkyl optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro, iodo, C_{1-6} alkoxy or C_{6-20} aryloxy; C_{7-20} aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-20} alkyl or C_{1-20} alkoxy; C_{6-20} aryl optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro, iodo, C_{1-20} alkyl or C_{1-20} alkoxy; trialkylsilyl; fluoro; bromo; chloro and iodo; and

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro; bromo; chloro; iodo; C_{1-20} sulphonate esters, optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro or iodo; C_{1-20} alkyl esters optionally substituted by fluoro, bromo, chloro or iodo; polyvalent halides; trisubstituted silyl groups of the general formula $(R_5)(R_6)(R_7)Si$ (wherein R_5 , R_6 , and R_7 are as defined above); saturated or unsaturated selenenyl C_{6-20} aryl; substituted or unsubstituted C_{6-20} arylsulfenyl; substituted or unsubstituted C_{6-20} alkoxyalkyl; and trialkylsiloxo.

21. The process according to claim 20, further comprising the step of reducing the glycosylated purine or pyrimidine base or analogue or



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derivative thereof to produce the optically active *cis*-oxathiolane or analogue or derivative of formula (Ia).

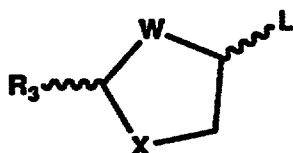
22. The process according to claim 20, further comprising the step of producing the single enantiomer of the ester derived from formula (IX) using a chiral auxiliary.

23. The process according to claim 22, wherein the chiral auxiliary is selected from the group consisting of (d)-menthol and (l)-menthol.

24. The process according to claim 20, wherein R_2 is a pyrimidine base.

25. The process according to claim 24, wherein the pyrimidine base is cytosine or 5-fluorocytosine.

26. An intermediate of formula (II)



(II)

wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

R_3 is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative; and

L is a leaving group.



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27. An intermediate of formula (IIa)



wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative; and

L is a leaving group.

28. An intermediate of formula (IIb)



wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative; and

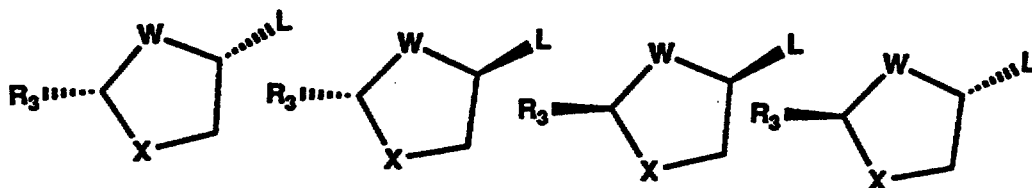
L is a leaving group.

29. An intermediate according to claim 26 selected from the group consisting of



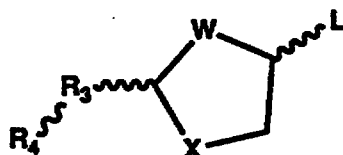
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wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative; and
 L is a leaving group.

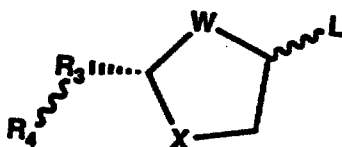
30. An intermediate of formula (VI)



(VI)

wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative;
 R₄ is a chiral auxiliary; and
 L is a leaving group.

31. An intermediate of formula (VIa)



(VIa)

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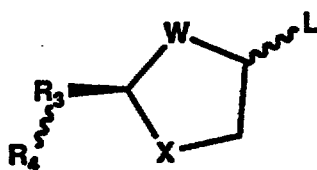
wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;





X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative;
 R₄ is a chiral auxiliary; and
 L is a leaving group.

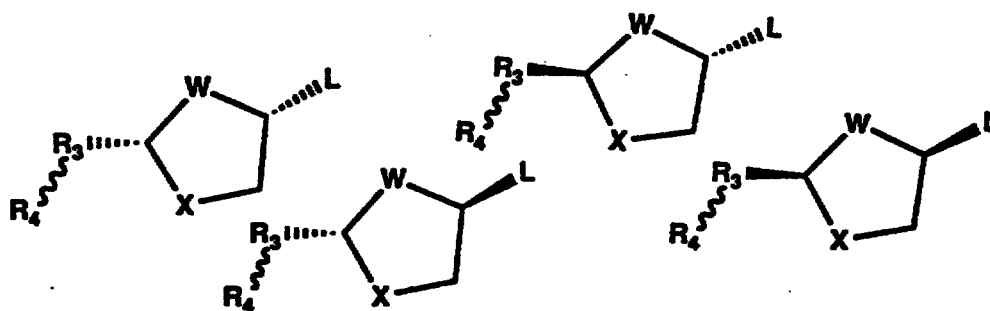
32. An intermediate of formula (VIb)



(VIb)

wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative;
 R₄ is a chiral auxiliary; and
 L is a leaving group.

33. An intermediate according to claim 30 selected from the group consisting of



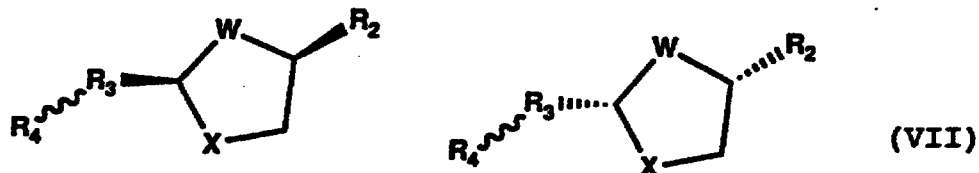
wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;
 R₃ is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative;

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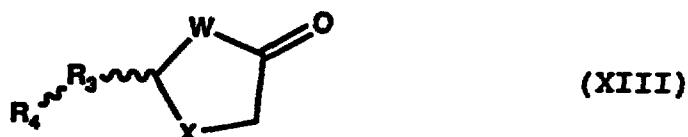
R_4 is a chiral auxiliary; and
 L is a leaving group.

34. An intermediate of formula (VII)



wherein W is S , $S=O$, SO_2 , or O ;
 X is S , $S=O$, SO_2 , or O ;
 R_2 is a purine or pyrimidine base or an
analogue or derivative thereof;
 R_3 is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl
derivative; and
 R_4 is a chiral auxiliary.

35. An intermediate of formula (XIII)



wherein W is S , $S=O$, SO_2 , or O ;
 X is S , $S=O$, SO_2 , or O ;
 R_3 is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl
derivative; and
 R_4 is a chiral auxiliary.

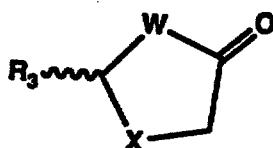
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36. An intermediate according to any one of claims 30 to 35 wherein R_4 is selected from the group consisting of (d)-menthol and (l)-menthol.

37. An intermediate of formula (XIV)



(XIV)

wherein W is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

X is S, S=O, SO₂, or O;

R_3 is a substituted carbonyl or carbonyl derivative.

38. An intermediate selected from the group consisting of

trans-5-hydroxyoxathiolane-2-carboxylic acid;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-one-2S-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolan-5-one-2R-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;

(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;



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(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5R-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5R-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2S-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(5"-fluorocytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(N-4"-acetylcytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'R,2'S,5'R)-menthyl-5S-(cytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-5S-(N-4"-acetylcytosin-1"-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;
(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

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(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4R-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate and (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4S-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

(1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4R-chloro-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate and (1'S,2'R,5'S)-menthyl-4S-chloro-1,3-oxathiolane-2R-carboxylate;

cis-2(N-methyl-N-methoxyaminocarbonyl)-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis- and *trans*-2-benzoyl-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-(1'-pyrrolidinocarbonyl)-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-carbomethoxy-5-(5'-bromouracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-carboxyl-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-(1'-pyrrolidinocarbonyl)-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis 2-benzoyl-5-(uracil-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis- and *trans*-isopropyl 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

cis-isopropyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

cis- and *trans*-*t*-butyl 5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

cis-*t*-butyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane-2-carboxylate;

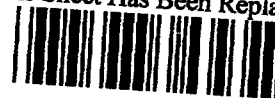
cis- and *trans*-2-N,N-diethylamidocarbonyl-5-acetoxy-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis-2-N,N-diethylamidocarbonyl-5-(cytosin-1'-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane;

cis- and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-acetoxy-1,3-dioxolane;

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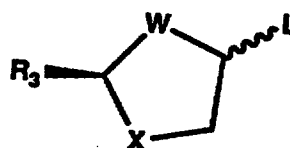
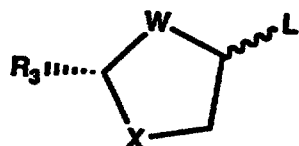




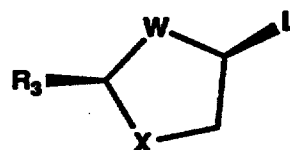
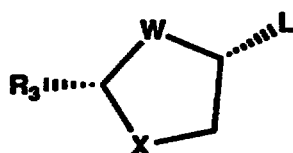
cis- and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-(thymine-1'-yl)-1,3-dioxolane; and

cis- and *trans*-2-carboethoxy-4-(N-4'-acetylcytosine-1'-yl)-1,3-dioxolane.

39. A process for producing an intermediate of formula (IIa) or formula (IIb) comprising the step of resolving a mixture of (IIa) or (IIb) using a chiral auxiliary:



40. A method of preparing a compound of formula



comprising the step of resolving a mixture of the two compounds by means of a chiral auxiliary.

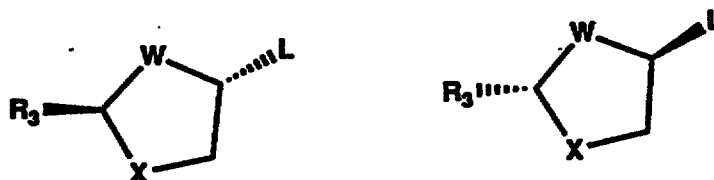
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41. A method of preparing a compound of formula



comprising the step of resolving a mixture of the two compounds by means of a chiral auxiliary.

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