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(54) Title: INHIBITORS OF NUCLEOSIDE PHOSPHORYLASES AND NUCLEOSIDASES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compounds of the general formula (I) which are inhibitors of purine nucleoside phosphorylases (PNP), purine phosphoribosyltransferases (PPRT), 5'-methylthioadenosine phosphorylases (MTAP), 5'-methylthioadenosine nucleosidases (MTAN) and/or nucleoside hydrolases (NH). The invention also relates to the use of these compounds in the treatment of diseases and infections including cancer, bacterial infections, protozoal infections, and T-cell mediated disease and to pharmaceutical compositions containing the compounds.

INHIBITORS OF NUCLEOSIDE PHOSPHORYLASES AND NUCLEOSIDASES

TECHNICAL FIELD

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This invention relates to certain nucleoside analogues which are inhibitors of PNP, PPRT, MTAP, MTAN, and/or NH, the use of these compounds as pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical compositions containing the compounds. The invention also relates to methods of treating diseases.

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BACKGROUND

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US 5,985,848, US 6,066,722 and US 6,228,741 are directed to nucleoside analogues that are inhibitors of purine nucleoside phosphorylase (PNP) and purine phosphoribosyltransferases (PPRT). The analogues are useful in treating parasitic infections, T-cell malignancies, autoimmune diseases and inflammatory disorders. The analogues are also useful for immunosuppression in organ transplantation.

20

PCT/NZ00/00048 provides a process for preparing certain PNP inhibitor compounds. This application recognises the compounds as PNP inhibitors and addresses a need for simpler methods of preparing them. PCT/NZ01/00174 also provides further nucleoside analogues that are inhibitors of PNP and PPRT.

25

Certain nucleoside analogues have also been identified as potent inhibitors of 5'-methylthioadenosine phosphorylase (MTAP) and 5'-methylthioadenosine nucleosidase (MTAN). These are the subject of PCT/NZ03/00050.

30

The applicants of the present application have also developed a process for preparing methylene linked cyclic amine deazapurines including reacting formaldehyde, or a formaldehyde equivalent, with a cyclic amine and a heteroaromatic compound. This process is the subject of New Zealand patent application no. 523970

PNP catalyses the phosphorolytic cleavage of ribo- and deoxyribonucleosides, for example those of guanine and hypoxanthine, to give the corresponding sugar-1-phosphate and guanine, hypoxanthine or other purine bases.

5 Humans deficient in purine nucleoside phosphorylase (PNP) suffer a specific T-cell immunodeficiency due to an accumulation of dGTP which prevents proliferation of stimulated T lymphocytes. Inhibitors against PNP are therefore immunosuppressive, and are active against T-cell malignancies and T-cell proliferative disorders.

10 Nucleoside hydrolases (NH) catalyse the hydrolysis of nucleosides. These enzymes are not found in mammals but are required for nucleoside salvage in some protozoan parasites. Some protozoan parasites use nucleoside phosphorylases either instead of or in addition to nucleoside hydrolases for this purpose. Inhibitors of nucleoside hydrolases and phosphorylases can be expected to interfere with the metabolism of the parasite and can therefore be usefully employed against protozoan parasites.

20 MTAP and MTAN function in the polyamine biosynthesis pathway, in purine salvage in mammals, and in the quorum sensing pathways in bacteria. MTAP catalyses the reversible phosphorolysis of 5'-methylthioadenosine (MTA) to adenine and 5-methylthio- α -D-ribose-1-phosphate (MTR-1P). MTAN catalyses the reversible hydrolysis of MTA to adenine and 5-methylthio- α -D-ribose and of S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine (SAH) to adenine and S-ribosyl-homocysteine (SRH). The adenine formed is subsequently recycled and converted into nucleotides. Essentially, the only source of free adenine in the human cell is a result of the action of these enzymes. The MTR-1P is subsequently converted into methionine by successive enzymatic actions.

30 MTA is a by-product of the reaction involving the transfer of an aminopropyl group from decarboxylated S-adenosylmethionine to putrescine during the formation of spermidine. The reaction is catalyzed by spermidine synthase. The spermidine synthase is very sensitive to product inhibition by accumulation of

MTA. Therefore, inhibition of MTAP or MTAN severely limits the polyamine biosynthesis and the salvage pathway for adenine in the cells. Likewise, MTA is the by-product of the bacterial synthesis of acylated homoserine lactones from S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) and acyl-acyl carrier proteins in which the subsequent lactonization causes release of MTA and the acylated homoserine lactone. The acylated homoserine lactone is a bacterial quorum sensing molecule in bacteria that is involved in bacterial virulence against human tissues. Recent work has identified a second communication system (autoinducer 2, AI-2) that is common to both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and thus has been proposed as a "universal signal" which functions in interspecies cell-to-cell communication. Again, MTAN generates S-ribosyl-homocysteine (SRH) that is the precursor of AI-2. Inhibition of MTAN or MTAP in microbes will prevent MTA removal and subject the pathway to product inhibition, thereby decreasing production of the quorum sensing pathway and decreasing the virulence of microbial infections. Inhibition of MTAN in microbes will prevent the formation of SRH, decreasing the production of the second quorum sensing pathway.

MTAP deficiency due to a genetic deletion has been reported with many malignancies. The loss of MTAP enzyme function in these cells is known to be due to homozygous deletions on chromosome 9 of the closely linked MTAP and *p16/MTS1* tumour suppressor gene. As absence of *p16/MTS1* is probably responsible for the tumour, the lack of MTAP activity is a consequence of the genetic deletion and is not causative for the cancer. However, the absence of MTAP alters the purine metabolism in these cells so that they are mainly dependent on the *de novo* pathway for their supply of purines. That makes these cells unusually sensitive to inhibitors like methotrexate, alanosine and azaserine, that block the *de novo* pathway. Therefore, a combination therapy of methotrexate, alanosine or azaserine with an MTAP inhibitor will have unusually effective anti-tumour properties.

MTAP inhibitors would also be very effective against parasitic infection such as malaria that infects red blood cells (RBCs), as they lack the *de novo* pathway for purine biosynthesis. Protozoan parasites depend entirely upon the purines

produced by the salvage pathway for their growth and propagation. MTAP inhibitors will therefore kill these parasites without having any negative effect on the host RBCs, as RBCs are terminally differentiated cells and they do not synthesize purines, produce polyamines or multiply.

5

The imino sugar part of the compounds described most of the patent specifications referred to above has the nitrogen atom located between C-1 and C-4 so as to form 1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-D-ribitol compounds. The location of the nitrogen atom in the ribitol ring may be critical for binding to enzymes. In addition, the location of the link between the sugar part and the nucleoside base analogue may be critical for enzyme inhibitory activity. The known compounds have that link at C-1 of the sugar ring.

10

In the search for new and improved nucleoside phosphorylase and nucleosidase inhibitors, the applicants have investigated the synthesis and bioactivity of compounds where the location of the nitrogen atom in the sugar ring is varied and, additionally, where two nitrogen atoms form part of the sugar ring. Alternative modes of linking the sugar part and the base analogue have also been investigated.

15

The applicants have surprisingly found that certain novel compounds exhibit potent inhibitory activity against one or more of PNP, PPRT, MTAP and the nucleoside hydrolase MTAN.

20

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a compound that is an inhibitor of PNP, PPRT, MTAP, MTAN, and/or NH or to at least provide a useful choice.

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Any discussion of the prior art throughout the specification should in no way be considered as an admission that such prior art is widely known or forms part of the common general knowledge in the field.

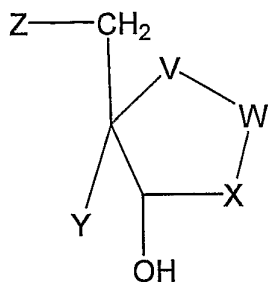
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Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and the claims, the words "comprise", "comprising" and the like, are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense, that is to say, in the sense of "including, but not limited to".

5

STATEMENTS OF INVENTION

In a first aspect of the invention there is provided a compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

5

V is selected from CH₂ and NH, and W is selected from NR¹ and NR²; or V is selected from NR¹ and NR², and W is selected from CH₂ and NH;

X is selected from CH₂ and CHOH in the R or S-configuration;

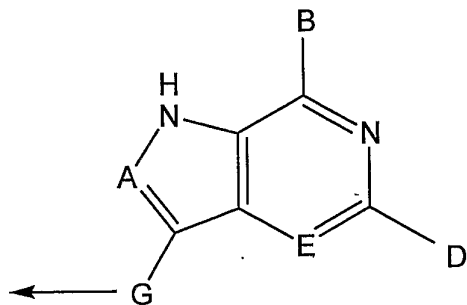
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Y is selected from hydrogen, halogen and hydroxy, except where V is selected from NH, NR¹ and NR² then Y is hydrogen;

Z is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, SQ, OQ and Q, where Q is an optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group;

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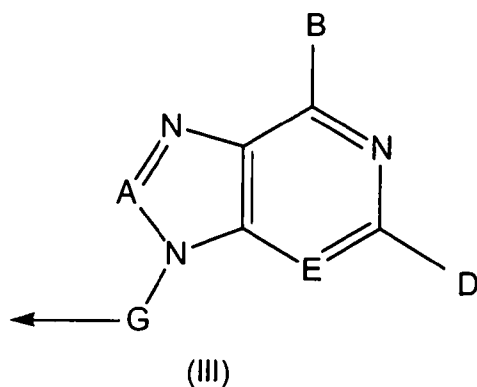
R¹ is a radical of the formula (II)



(II)

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R² is a radical of the formula (III)



5 A is selected from N, CH and CR, where R is selected from halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl, OH, NH₂, NHR³, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵, where R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are each optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl groups;

10 B is selected from OH, NH₂, NHR⁶, SH, hydrogen and halogen, where R⁶ is an optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group;

D is selected from OH, NH₂, NHR⁷, hydrogen, halogen and SCH₃, where R⁷ is an optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group;

15 E is selected from N and CH;

G is selected from CH₂ and NH, or G is absent, provided that where W is NR¹ or NR² and G is NH then V is CH₂, and provided that where V is NR¹ or NR² and G is NH then W is CH₂;

20

or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

25 Preferably Z is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, SQ and OQ. More preferably Z is OH. Alternatively it is preferred that Z is SQ. In another preferred embodiment, Z is Q.

It is also preferred that V is CH₂. It is further preferred that X is CH₂. Additionally, it is preferred that G is CH₂.

5 Preferably W is NR¹. Alternatively it is preferred that W is NR². It is also preferred that where W is selected from NH, NR¹ or NR² then X is CH₂.

Preferred compounds of the invention include those where V, X and G are all CH₂, Z is OH and W is NR¹.

10 Other preferred compounds of the invention include those where V, X and G are all CH₂, Z is SQ and W is NR¹.

Preferably Y is hydrogen. Alternatively it is preferred that Y is hydroxy.

15 Preferably B is hydroxy. Alternatively it is preferred that B is NH₂.

Preferably A is CH. Alternatively it is preferred that A is N.

Preferably D is H. Alternatively it is preferred that D is NH₂.

20

It is also preferred that E is N.

Preferred compounds of the invention include:

25 (3R,4R)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4R)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
30 (3R,4R)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine;

(3S,4R)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-4-methylthiomethylpyrrolidine;
(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;
5 *N*-(9-Deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-D-ribose;
N-(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-D-ribose;
(3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethyl-1-(hypoxanthin-9-yl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;
10 (3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4S)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4R)-1-[(9-deazaguanin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
15 (3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(4-chlorophenylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4R)-1-[(6-chloro-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
20 (3R,4R)-1-[(6-azido-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine; or
(3R,4R)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-acetoxy-4-(acetoxymethyl)pyrrolidine.

25 In another aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined above.

30 In yet another aspect, the invention provides a method of treating a disease or condition in which it is desirable to inhibit purine phosphoribosyltransferase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine nucleosidase and/or nucleoside hydrolase comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined above to a patient requiring treatment.

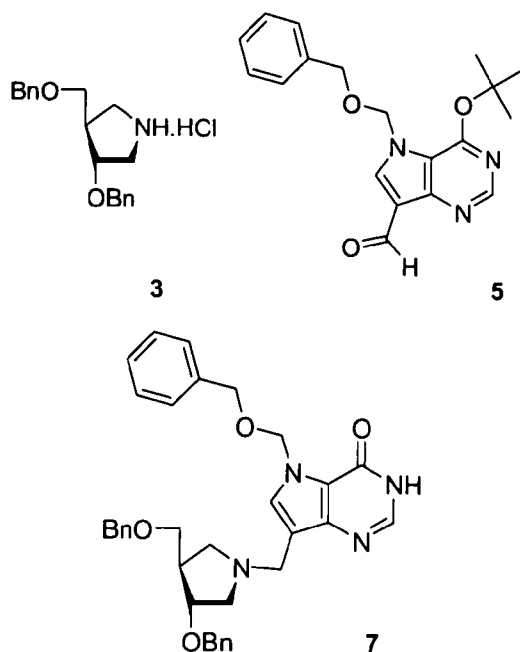
The disease or condition may include cancer, bacterial infection, protozoal infection or a T-cell mediated disease. The T-cell mediated disease may be psoriasis, arthritis or transplant rejection.

5 In still another aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I) as defined above in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease or condition in which it is desirable to inhibit purine phosphoribosyltransferase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine nucleosidase and/or nucleoside hydrolase.

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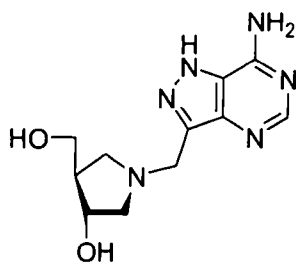
In still another aspect, the invention provides a process for preparing a compound of formula 8 as shown below, including the steps of:

- 15 (i) coupling an aldehyde of formula 5 with an amine of formula 3 by reductive amination followed by removal of the tert-butyl group under acidic conditions to give a compound of formula 7; and



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- (ii) deprotection of the compound of formula 7 to give the compound of formula 8



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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It will be appreciated that the representation of a compound of formula (I), where B and/or D is a hydroxy group, is of the enol-type tautomeric form of a corresponding amide, and this will largely exist in the amide form. The use of the enol-type tautomeric representation is simply to allow fewer structural formulae to represent the compounds of the invention.

10

Similarly, it will be appreciated that the representation of a compound of formula (I), where B and/or D is a thiol group, is of the thioenol-type tautomeric form of a corresponding thioamide, and this will largely exist in the thioamide form. The use of the thioenol-type tautomeric representation is simply to allow fewer structural formulae to represent the compounds of the invention.

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The compounds of the invention may be prepared by any suitable method. One suitable method involves independently synthesising the sugar part and the base part and then linking the base part to a nitrogen atom in the ring of the sugar part.

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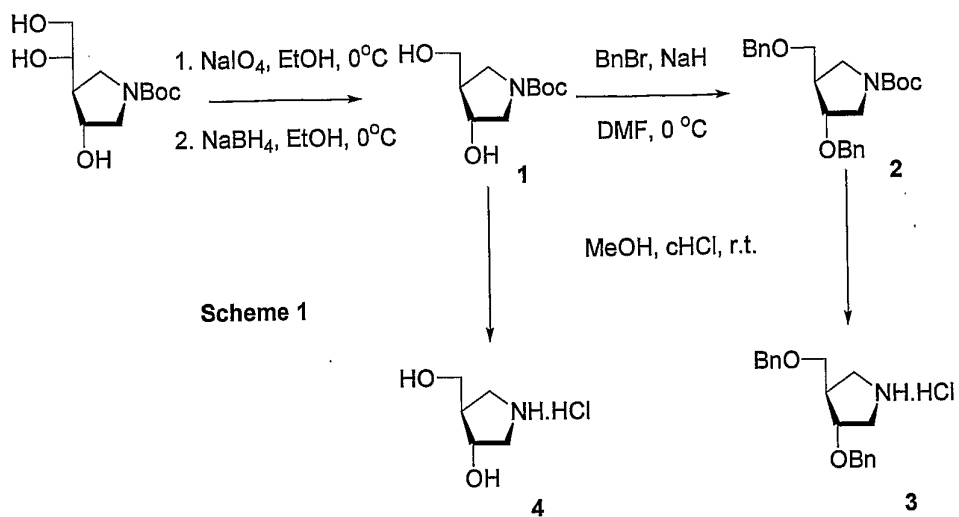
For example, Scheme 1 below outlines the preparation of the 1-*N*-imino sugar part of a compound of the invention where the nitrogen atom of the sugar analogue is located at the same position as the C-1 anomeric carbon atom would be found in a sugar molecule. A useful starting compound in the synthesis of the 1-*N*-iminosugar is *N*-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-(3*R*, 4*S*)-3-hydroxy-4-[(1*S*)-1, 2-

25

dihydroxyethyl]pyrrolidine. This starting compound may be prepared via the method of Filichev *et al.* (Carbohydrate Res., 2001, 333, 115-122) with the only variation being that a *t*-butoxycarbonyl moiety is utilised as the nitrogen protecting group rather than the N-(9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl) group. Oxidative cleavage of the diol moiety followed by reduction *in situ* gives the N-protected 3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine (1). Removal of the N protecting group gives (3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine (4). Racemic 3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine was first prepared by Jaeger *et al.* (J. Org. Chem., 1965, 30, 740-744) and was used in the preparation of 1'-aza carbacyclic thymidine analogues (Lee, Y.H., Kim, H.K., Youn, I.K., Chae, Y.B., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 1991, 1, 287-290.) and aza-C-pyrimidines (Sorenson, M.D., Khalifa, N.M., Pedersen, E.B., Synthesis, 1999, 1937-1943).

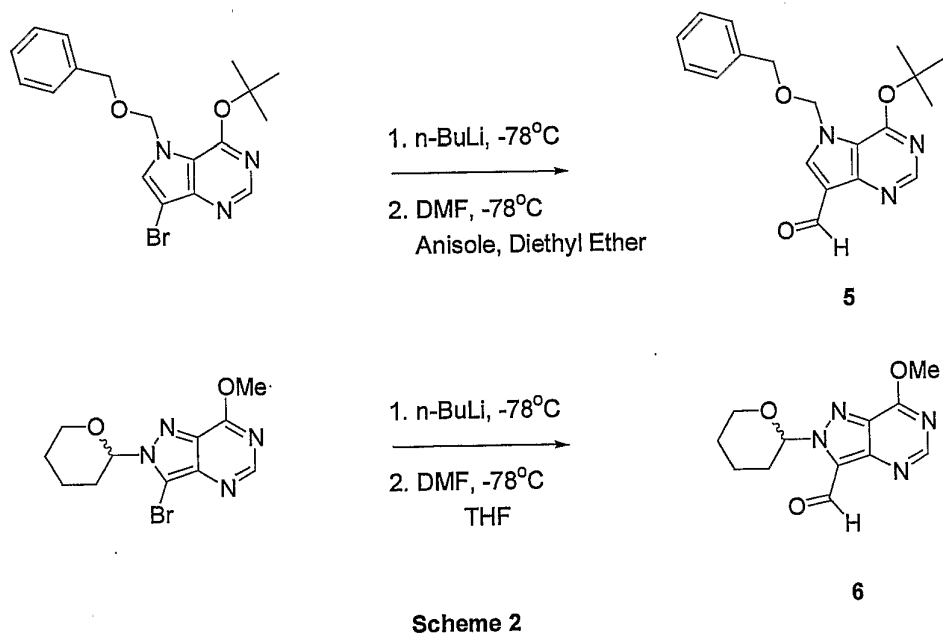
Two other methods for the synthesis of (3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine have also been described. One method by Bols *et al.* [Bols, M., Hansen, S.U., Acta Chem. Scand., 1998, 52, 1214-1222] involves enzymatic purification of the enantiomers. The other method by Ichikawa *et al.* [Ichikawa, Y., Makino, K., Tetrahedron Lett., 1998, 39, 8245-8248] is a multi-gram asymmetric synthesis of (3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine via fumaric acid monoethyl ester. Ichikawa *et al.* evaluated the inhibitory activity of (3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine against human PNP and obtained an IC₅₀ of 160 μM.

Benylation of the hydroxyl groups of compound (1) before removal of the N protecting group may be desirable to give (3R,4R)-3-benzyloxy-4-benzyloxymethylpyrrolidine hydrochloride (3) as a useful compound ready for linking to a suitable base analogue.



The linking of the sugar part may be achieved by reductive amination of an appropriate aldehyde. Examples of suitable aldehydes, prepared from their corresponding bromo precursors, are shown in Scheme 2.

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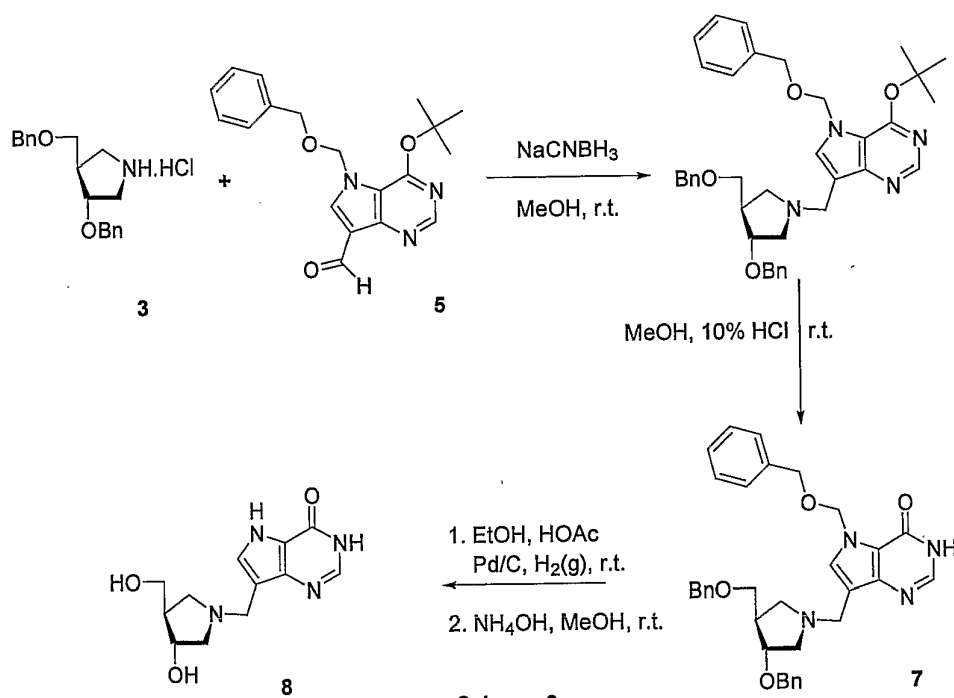


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Coupling of an aldehydic base analogue with the protected sugar analogue (3) is shown in Scheme 3. Protecting group removal provides the inhibitor compound

of the invention (3S,4S)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (**8**).

It is to be appreciated that any sugar analogue having a nitrogen atom at any location in its ring may be coupled to any base analogue in this way. It is also to be appreciated that methods other than coupling by reductive amination of an aldehyde may be used.



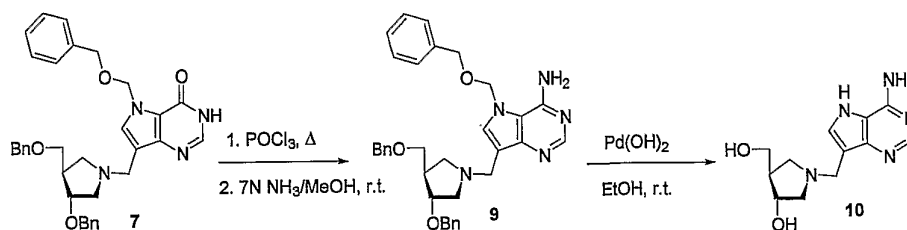
Scheme 3

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As can be seen from Scheme 4 below, the intermediate (**7**) may be manipulated to afford (**10**).

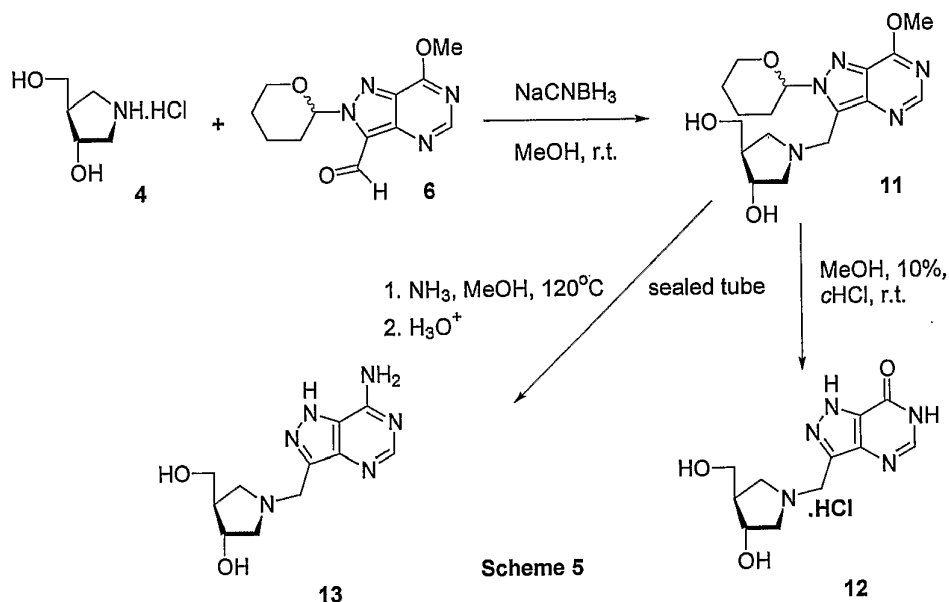
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Scheme 4

Other examples of the coupling of base analogues to the sugar analogue (4) are shown in Scheme 5. This method can be used to prepare the compounds (3R,4S)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine; (12) and (3R,4S)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine(13).



Scheme 5

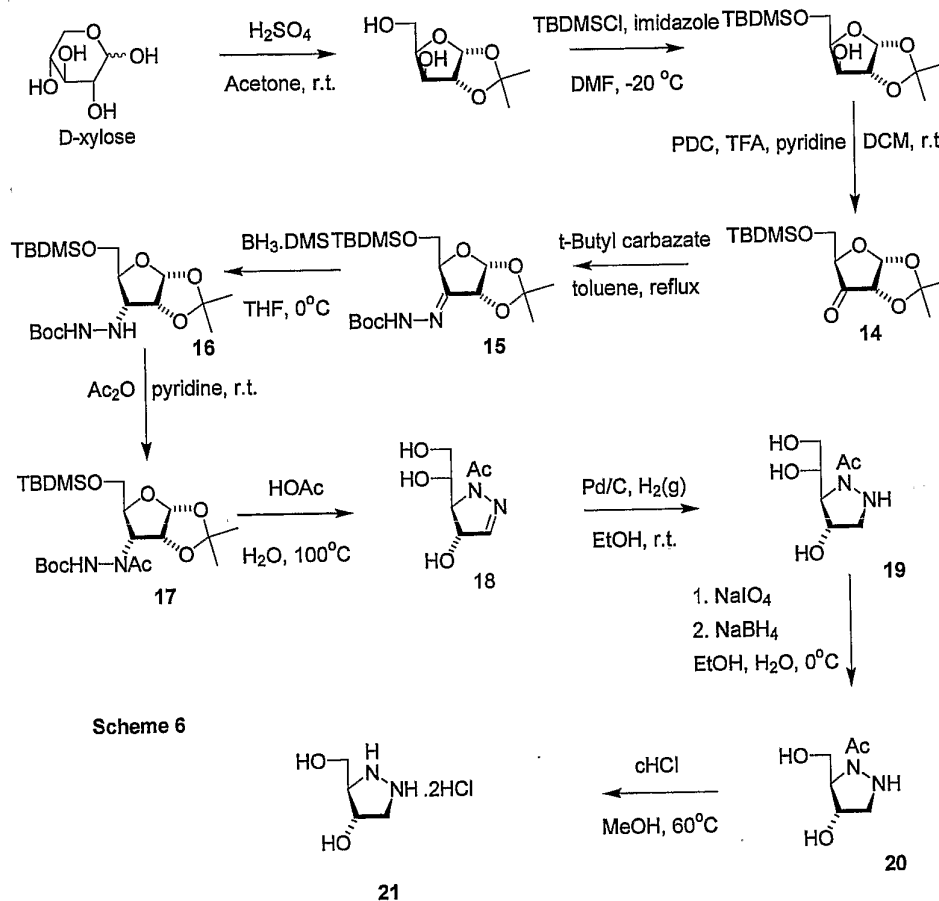
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An intermediate sugar analogue containing two nitrogen atoms in its ring has been prepared. (3R,4S)-4-Hydroxy-3-hydroxymethylpyrazolidine (21) may be prepared according to the route outlined in Scheme 6. The ketone (14) is prepared from D-xylose using well known chemistry (Lin, T-S., Zhu, J-L., Dutschman, G.E., Cheng, Y-C., Prusoff, W.H., *J. Med. Chem.* 1993, 36, 353-

15

362). Amination followed by reduction of the imine and acetylation of the resulting secondary amine gives compound (17). The key step of acid hydrolysis with concomitant recyclisation gives the imino cycle (18). Hydrogenation followed by cleavage of the diol moiety and removal of the acetate provides the desired pyrazolidine (21).

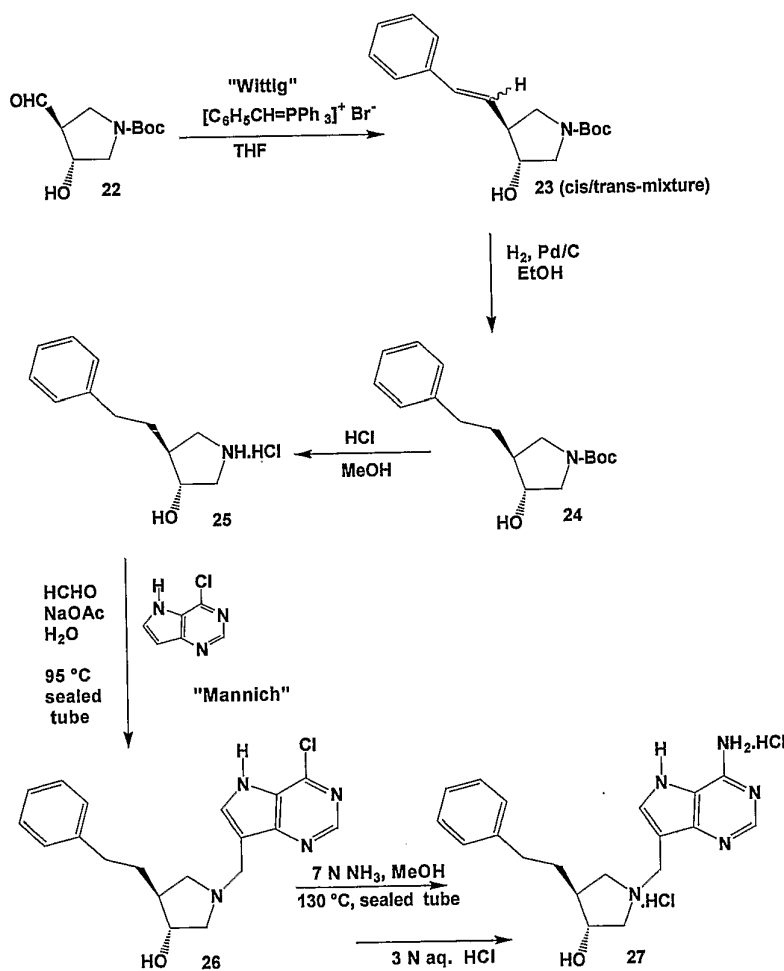
The pyrazolidine (21), or the precursor N-acetate (20), may be coupled with a variety of base analogues to give potential inhibitors of the formula (I) of this invention.



An alternative method for coupling the base analogue to the sugar analogue is shown in Scheme 7. The aldehyde *N-tert*-butoxycarbonyl-(3*R*,4*S*)-3-hydroxy-4-formylpyrrolidine (22) is employed in a Wittig-type reaction to provide the 5' C-C linked intermediate *N-tert*-butoxycarbonyl-(3*R*,4*R*)-3-hydroxy-4-(2-

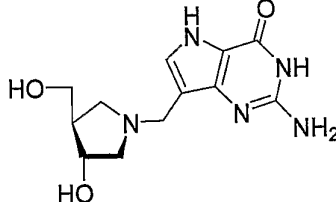
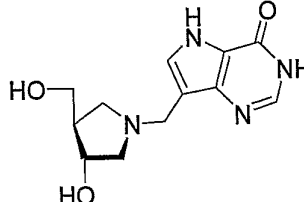
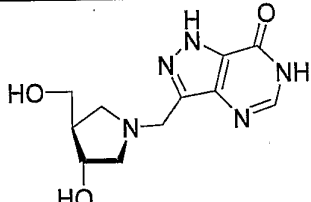
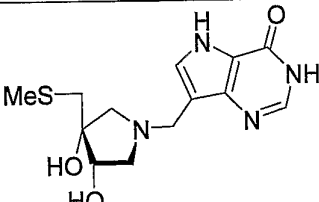
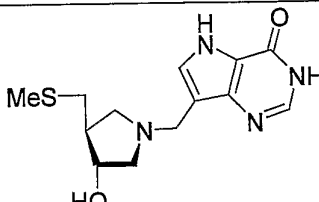
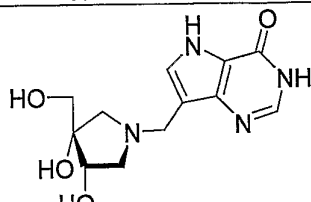
phenylethenyl)pyrrolidine (**23**). Subsequent hydrogenation and Boc-cleavage provides the hydrochloride salt (**25**) which can be used in a Mannich-type reaction to provide (3R,4R)-1-[(6-chloro-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine (**26**). Treatment with 7 N ammonia in methanol at 130 °C in a sealed tube followed by the transformation to the hydrochloride salt with 3N aqueous HCl gives (3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (**27**).

It will be appreciated that the route exemplified in Scheme 7 can be applied to the coupling of a variety of analogues of **25** varying in the C-4 substituent with a variety of 9-deazapurine analogues.



Scheme 7

Table 1: Inhibition Constants against Human PNP

Compound No.	Structure	K _i	K _i *
61		163 ± 25 pM	6.8 ± 1.2 pM
8		1100 ± 120 pM	16.0 ± 1.4 pM
12		2000 ± 50 pM	No slow onset
33		433 ± 13 nM	No slow onset
37		19.6 ± 3.5 pM	No slow onset
31		14 ± 3 nM	No slow onset

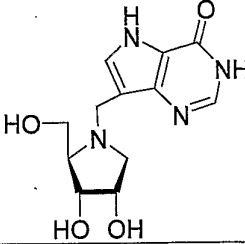
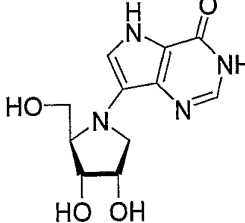
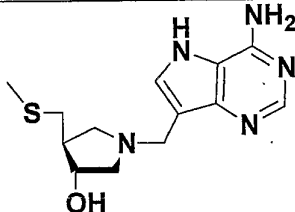
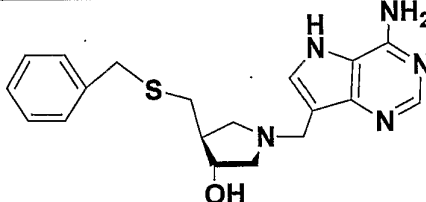
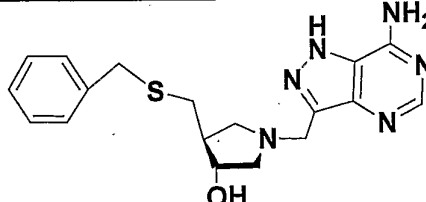
Compound No.	Structure	Ki	Ki*
41		2.8 nM	No slow onset
40		12.7 μM	No slow onset

Table 2: Inhibition Constants against *E. coli* MTAN

5

Compound No.	Structure	Ki	Ki*
52		17 ± 2 pM	160 ± 14 fM
57		9.0 ± 1 pM	42 ± 5 fM
58			190 fM

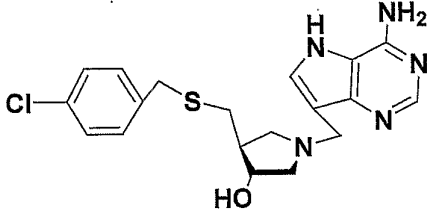
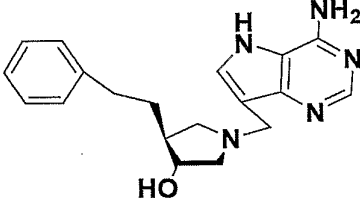
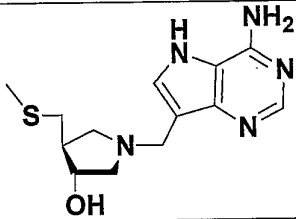
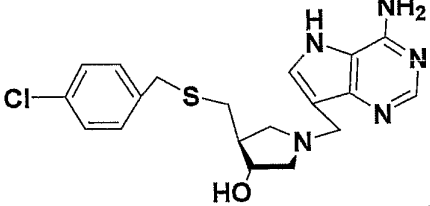
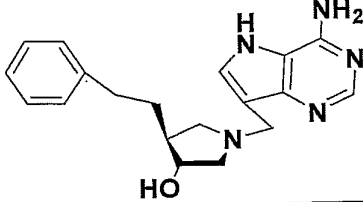
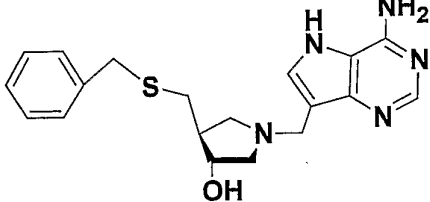
Compound No.	Structure	Ki	Ki*
62		4.0 ± 0.4 pM	91 ± 2.0 fM
27		47.0 ± 8.0 nM	1.0 ± 0.3 nM

Table 3: Inhibition Constants against Human MTAP

Compound No.	Structure	Ki	Ki*
52		870 ± 110 pM	22 ± 3 pM
62		46.0 ± 8.0 pM	< 3 pM
27		No inhibition at 10 micomolar	
57		280 ± 50 pM	3.0 ± 0.3 pM

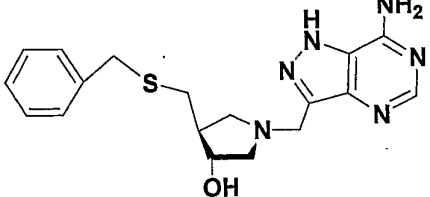
Compound No.	Structure	Ki	Ki*
58		51 nM	No slow onset

Table 4: Inhibition Constants against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* PNP

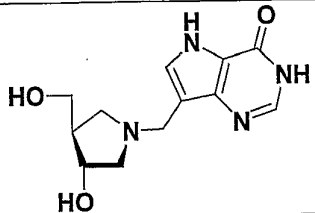
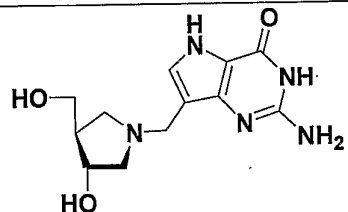
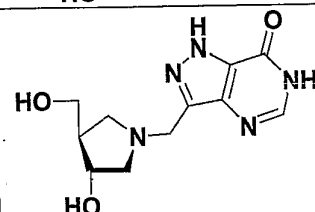
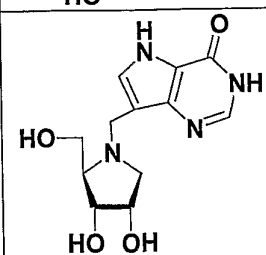
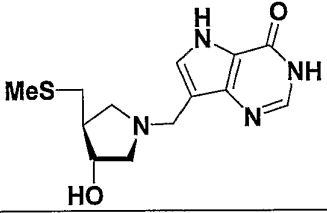
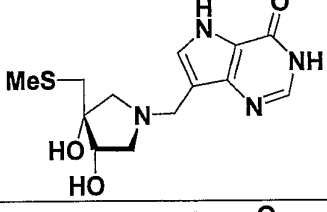
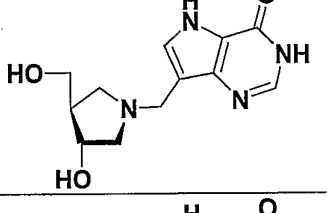
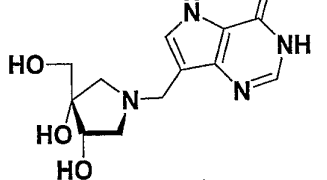
Compound No.	Structure	Ki	Ki*
8		1.3 ± 0.1 nM	42.2 ± 2 pM
61		540 ± 40 pM	24 ± 1 pM
12		2.1 ± 0.2 nM	No slow onset
41		7 ± 0.2 nM	No slow onset

Table 5: Inhibition Constants against *Plasmodium falciparum* PNP

Compound No.	Structure	K _i	K _i *
37		20.4 ± 1.8 nM	No slow onset
33		45 ± 3 μM	No slow onset
8		500 pM	No slow onset
31		4.3 μM	No slow onset

5 K_i as shown in Tables 1, 2, 3 4 and 5 is the initial inhibition constant formed by the enzyme-inhibitor complex, and K_i* is the equilibrium dissociation constant for inhibition that is observed following a period of slow-onset, tight binding inhibition. K_i* is the biologically effective constant.

Further Aspects

10

The compounds of the invention are useful in both free base form and in the form of salts. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" is intended to apply to non-toxic salts derived from inorganic or organic acids, including, for example,

the following acids: hydrochloric, sulphuric, phosphoric, acetic, lactic, fumaric, succinic, tartaric, gluconic, citric, methanesulfonic and *p*-toluenesulfonic acids.

5 The active compounds may be administered to a patient by a variety of routes, including oral administration, injection, or topical administration. The amount of compound to be administered will vary widely according to the nature of the patient and the nature and extent of the disorder to be treated. Typically the dosage for an adult human will be in the range less than 1 to 1000 milligrams, preferably 0.1 to 100 milligrams.

10 For oral administration the compounds can be formulated into solid or liquid preparations, for example tablets, capsules, powders, solutions, suspensions and dispersions. Such preparations are well known in the art as are other oral dosage regimes not listed here. In the tablet form the compounds may be
15 tableted with conventional tablet bases such as lactose, sucrose and corn starch, together with a binder, a disintegration agent and a lubricant. The binder may be, for example, corn starch or gelatin, the disintegrating agent may be potato starch or alginic acid and the lubricant may be magnesium stearate. Other components such as colourings or flavourings may be added.

20 Liquid forms include carriers such as water and ethanol, with or without other agents such as a pharmaceutically acceptable surfactant or suspending agent.

25 The compounds may also be administered by injection in a physiologically acceptable diluent such as water or saline. The diluent may comprise one or more other ingredients such as ethanol, propylene glycol, an oil or a pharmaceutically acceptable surfactant.

30 The compounds may be present as ingredients in creams, for topical administration to skin or mucous membranes. Preferably the creams include a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent to assist passage through the skin or mucous membranes. Suitable creams are well known to those skilled in the art.

The compounds may further be administered by means of sustained release systems. For example, they may be incorporated into a slowly dissolving tablet or capsule.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the kinetic curves for human PNP inhibited by compound (8).

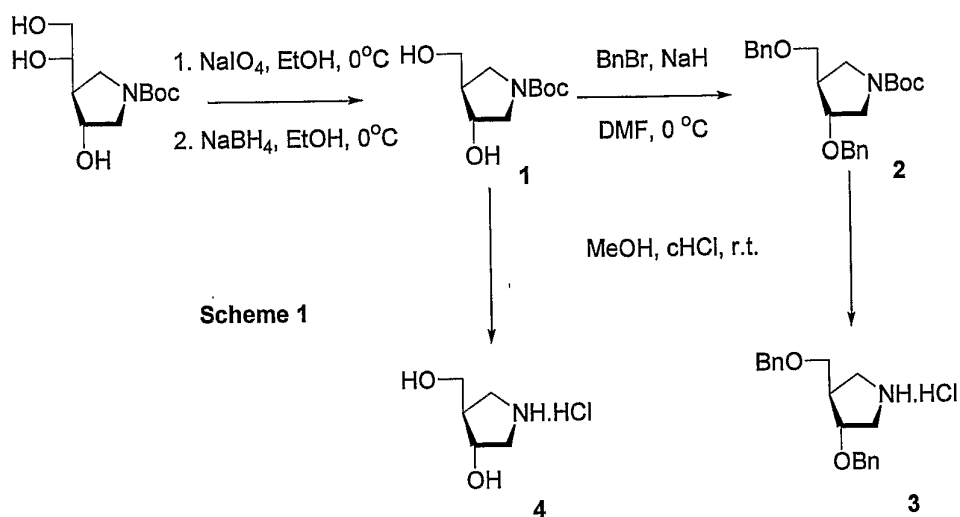
Figure 2 shows *in vivo* inhibition of mouse MTAP.

10

EXAMPLES

The following examples further illustrate the invention. It is to be appreciated that the invention is not limited to the examples.

15



Example 1

N-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-(3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (1).

N-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-(3R,4S)-3-hydroxy-4-[(1S)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]pyrrolidine

(3.4 g, 13.7 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of

sodium periodate (3.4 g, 16 mmol) in water (25 mL) while maintaining the reaction temperature at 0 °C. The reaction was left an additional 20 min after which time sodium borohydride (2.0 g, excess) was added portionwise while again ensuring the reaction temperature was maintained at 0 °C. On complete addition the solid was filtered, washed with ethanol (50 mL) and concentrated in vacuo to afford a syrup. Chromatography afforded **1** (2.74 g, 92%) as a syrup.

Example 2

N-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-(3R,4R)-3-benzyloxy-4-(benzyloxymethyl)pyrrolidine

(**2**). Sodium hydride (140 mg, 60% oil dispersion, 3.7 mmol) was added portionwise to a stirred solution of benzyl bromide (300 μ L, 2.8 mmol) and **1** (200 mg, 0.92 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) at 0°C. On complete addition the resulting suspension was allowed to warm to r.t., diluted with toluene (100 mL), washed with water (50 mL), brine (50 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated in vacuo to afford a syrup. Chromatography afforded **2** (350 mg, 96%) as an oil which was used in the next step without purification.

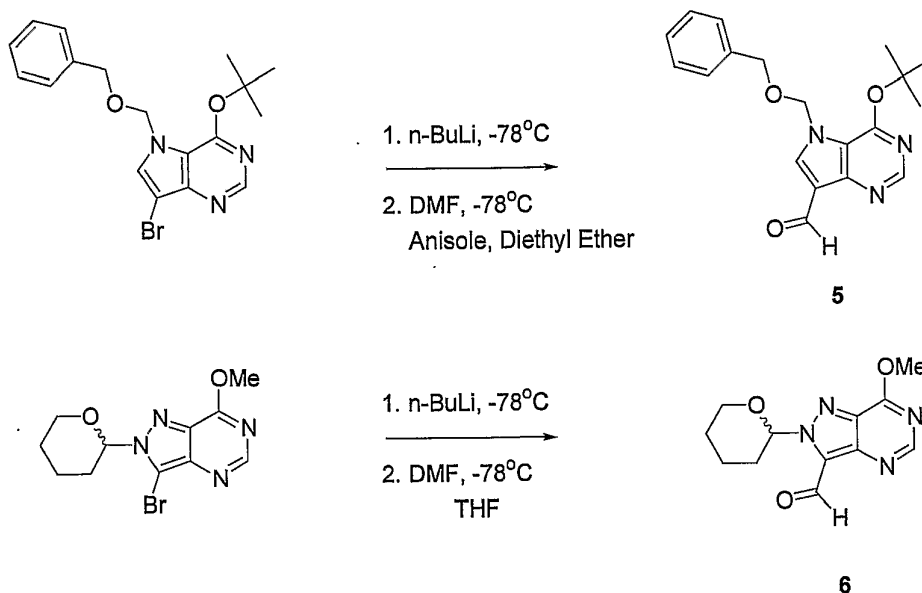
Example 3

(3R,4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-(benzyloxymethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (3)

Hydrochloric acid (2 mL, 1M) was added to a solution of **2** (500 mg, 1.3 mmol) in methanol (2 mL) and the resulting mixture stirred for 1 h at 40°C. On completion the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford **3** as the hydrochloride salt (330 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR δ 7.35–7.21 (m, 10H), 4.48 (m, 4H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.44 (m, 3H), 3.24 (m, 1H), 2.65 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR δ 138.0, 137.6, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 79.3, 73.7, 71.9, 68.7, 49.6, 46.4, 44.8.

Example 4

(3R,4R)-3-Hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (4). Hydrochloric acid (5 mL, 12M) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of **1** (2.3 g, 10.6 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) at room temperature. After 1 h the reaction was concentrated in vacuo to afford **4** (1.63 g, 100%) as an oil. ¹³C NMR δ 71.9, 60.9, 52.1, 47.9, 46.6.



Scheme 2

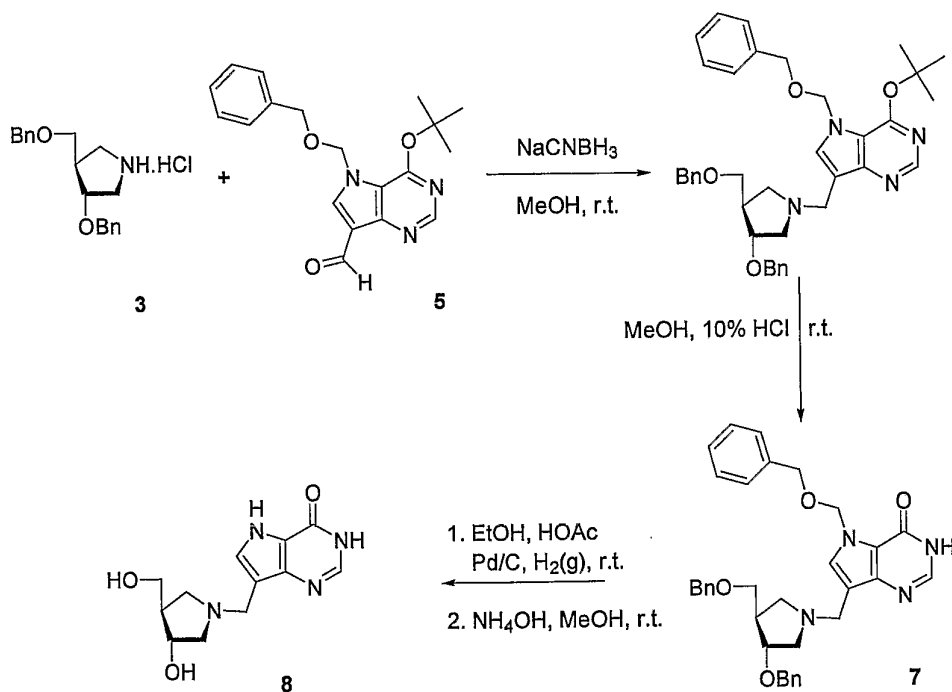
Example 5

5 **7-N-Benzyloxymethyl-6-tert-butoxy-9-deazapurine-9-carbaldehyde (5).** 5-Benzyloxymethyl-7-bromo-4-tert-butoxypyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine (400 mg, 1.02 mmol) was dissolved in diethyl ether (10 mL) and anisole (5 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. *n*-Butyl lithium (600 μL, 2.5 M) was then added dropwise at such a rate as to maintain the reaction temperature below -70 °C and the resulting solution left for 30 min at -78 °C. Dimethylformamide (100 μL) was then added and the reaction left stirring for an additional 30 min and then quenched with water and allowed to warm to r.t. The reaction was then diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL), washed with water (30 mL), brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a syrup. Purification by chromatography afforded **5** (270 mg, 78%). ¹H NMR δ 10.29 (s, 1H), 8.62 (s, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 5.79 (s, 2H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 1.71 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR δ 184.8, 156.63, 152.6, 150.0, 136.7, 136.6, 128.9, 128.5, 127.8, 118.4, 84.4, 78.3, 71.0, 29.0.

Example 6

20 **8-Aza-9-deaza-6-methoxy-7-N-(tetrahydropyran-2-yl)purine-9-carbaldehyde (6).** *n*-BuLi (0.7 mL, 2.4 M) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 8-aza-9-bromo-9-deaza-6-methoxy-7-N-(tetrahydropyran-2-yl)purine (530 mg, 1.7 mmol)

in THF (20 mL) at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ under an inert atmosphere. The reaction was stirred for an additional 30 min at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and then DMF (1.0 mL) was added and the reaction allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with water (50 mL) extracted with toluene (2 x 100 mL), the organic layers were combined washed with brine, dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated in vacuo to afford a solid residue. Chromatography afforded **6** as a solid. ^1H NMR δ 10.43 (s, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H), 6.55 (dd, $J = 10.0, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.25 (s, 3H), 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.83 (dt, $J = 10.8, 2.8$ Hz), 2.53 – 1.65 (m, 7H). ^{13}C NMR δ 177.0, 161.5, 154.5, 143.9, 130.2, 128.9, 87.0, 67.4, 53.5, 28.7, 23.7, 21.2.



Scheme 3

Example 7

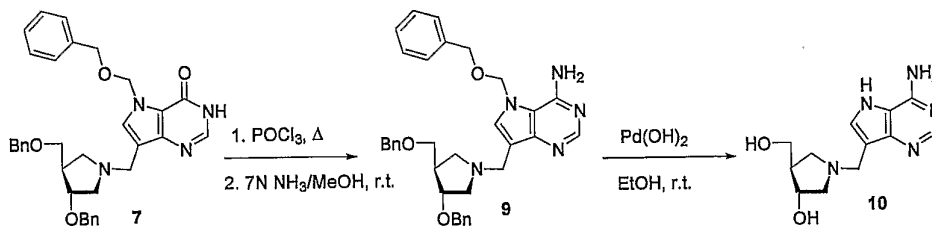
7-[(3R,4R)-(3-Benzyloxy-4-benzyloxymethylpyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]-5-benzyloxymethyl-3H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidin-4-one(3S,4S)-1-[(9-deaza-7-benzyloxymethyl-hypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-benzyloxy-4-(benzyloxyxymethyl)pyrrolidine (7). Sodium cyanoborohydride (100 mg, 1.59 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **5** (220 mg, 0.64 mmol) and **3.HCl** (190 mg, 0.57 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) and stirred overnight at r.t.. The reaction was

then concentrated *in vacuo* and redissolved in methanol (2 mL) and CHCl_3 (2 mL), stirred for 1 h and then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a solid residue. Chromatography of the resulting residue afforded **7** (202 mg, 63%) as a solid. ^1H NMR δ 7.87 (1H, s), 7.32 (1H, s), 7.31-7.23 (m, 5H), 5.89 (s, 2H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 3.87 (m, 2H), 3.81 (q, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.43 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.79 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.55 (m, 1H), 2.36 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR δ 156.2, 145.8, 141.8, 138.9, 138.8, 137.6, 131.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 128.8, 117.9, 115.7, 81.3, 77.1, 73.5, 72.1, 71.4, 70.8, 60.0, 56.4, 48.6, 45.9.

Example 8

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-

(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (**8**). Compound **7** (120 mg, 0.21 mmol) and Pearlman's catalyst (120 mg) were suspended in ethanol (3 mL) and acetic acid (1 mL) and vigorously stirred under an atmosphere of hydrogen gas for 24 h at r.t. The reaction was then filtered through celite and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a solid. Chromatography and ion exchange of the solid afforded **8** (38 mg, 68%) as a white solid with m.p. 248–250 °C. ^1H NMR δ 7.81 (1H, s), 7.34 (1H, s), 3.97 (1H, brs), 3.65 (2H, s), 3.53 (1H, m), 3.44 (1H, m), 2.93 (1H, t, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 2.77 (1H, m), 2.60 (1H, m), 2.33 (1H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 2.12 (1H, brs). ^{13}C NMR δ 155.8, 144.1, 142.8, 130.0, 117.3, 111.1, 72.9, 62.7, 60.2, 54.8, 48.9, 47.3. HRMS (MH⁺) calc. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$: 265.1301. Found 265.1302. Anal. Calc. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$ C, 52.7; H, 6.2; N, 20.5. Found C, 53.0; H 5.9; N, 20.4.



Scheme 4

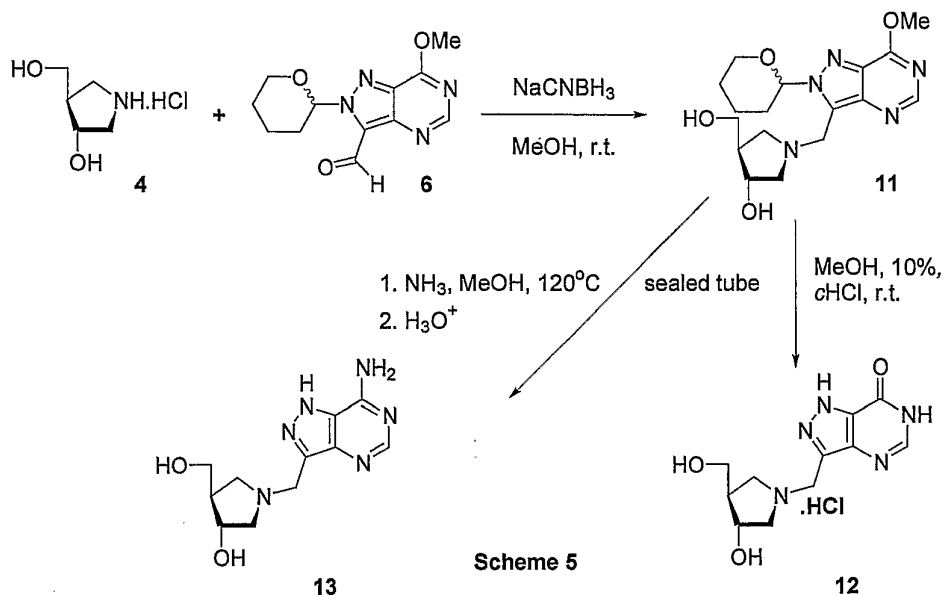
Example 9.1**(3R,4R)-1-[(9-deaza-7-benzyloxymethyl-adenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-benzyloxy-4-**

(benzyloxymethyl)pyrrolidine (9). Compound **7** (1.2 g, 2.12 mmol) was added to phosphoryl chloride (20 mL) and the resulting suspension heated to reflux. After
5 1h the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*, diluted with chloroform, washed with saturated NaHCO₃, brine, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was redissolved in 7N NH₃ in methanol and the resulting solution heated to 120 °C in a sealed tube overnight. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by chromatography to afford **9** (0.83 g, 69%).

10 ¹H NMR δ 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.76 (brs, 1H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 15H), 6.01 (brs, 2H), 5.51 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.25 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (m, 1H), 3.50 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (m, 1H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.01 (m, 1H), 2.71 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR δ 152.3, 151.5, 150.1, 138.3, 138.0, 135.7, 134.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 115.18, 107.94, 79.7, 77.6, 73.6,
15 71.9, 70.7, 69.8, 58.6, 58.1, 55.22, 54.9, 48.8, 45.3.

Example 9.2**(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-**

(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (10). Compound **9** (100 mg, 0.18 mmol) and Pd/C (50 mg, 10% bw) were suspended in ethanol (4 mL) and vigorously stirred under
20 an atmosphere of hydrogen for 24 h at room temp. The reaction was then filtered through celite and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a syrup. Chromatography on silica gel afforded **10** as a solid. ¹H NMR (D₂O) δ 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 3.88 (q, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.32 (4H, m), 2.78 (t, J = 9.0Hz, 1H), 2.62 (dd, J = 10.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (dd, J = 10.7, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (dd, J = 9.8, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.03
25 (1H, m). ¹³C NMR (D₂O) δ 150.1, 149.6, 145.1, 129.6, 113.3, 109.8, 72.9, 62.8, 60.3, 54.8, 49.0, 47.3. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₁₂H₁₈N₅O₂: 264.1461. Found 264.1457.



5

Example 10

(3R,4R)-1-[(8-Aza-9-deaza-6-methoxy-8-(tetrahydropyran-2-yl)-purin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (11).

Sodium cyanoborohydride (100 mg, 1.59 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **6** (340 mg, 1.3 mmol) and **4.HCl** (190 mg, 0.57 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) and stirred overnight at r.t.. Chromatography of the resulting residue afforded **11** (150 mg, 35%) as a solid. $^1\text{H NMR}$, δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 5.90 (d, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.17 – 3.94 (m, 4H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.67 – 3.52 (m, 2H), 2.94 – 2.79 (m, 2H), 2.66 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 2.35 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.70 – 1.56 (m, 2H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$, δ 162.6, 152.2, (140.1, 140.0), 133.5, 131.6, (87.0, 86.9), 74.3, (68.3, 68.2), (64.3, 64.2), 62.6, (56.2, 56.1), 54.5, (50.6, 50.7), (47.7, 47.6), 29.7, 25.2, 21.8.

15

Example 11

(3R,4R)-1-[(8-Aza-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-

(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (12). Concentrated hydrochloric acid (1 mL, 12M) was added to a solution of **11** (50 mg, 0.14 mmol) in methanol and stirred overnight and then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a solid residue which was

20

trituated with methanol and filtered to afford **12** (38 mg, 92%) as a solid. ^1H NMR δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 4.35 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (m, 1H), 3.66 – 3.43 (m, 2H), 3.55 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.10 (m, 1H), 2.44 (brs, 1H). ^{13}C NMR δ 154.7, 145.4, 137.1, 134.7, 128.6, 71.4, 60.6, 60.6, 55.0, 48.0, 47.9.

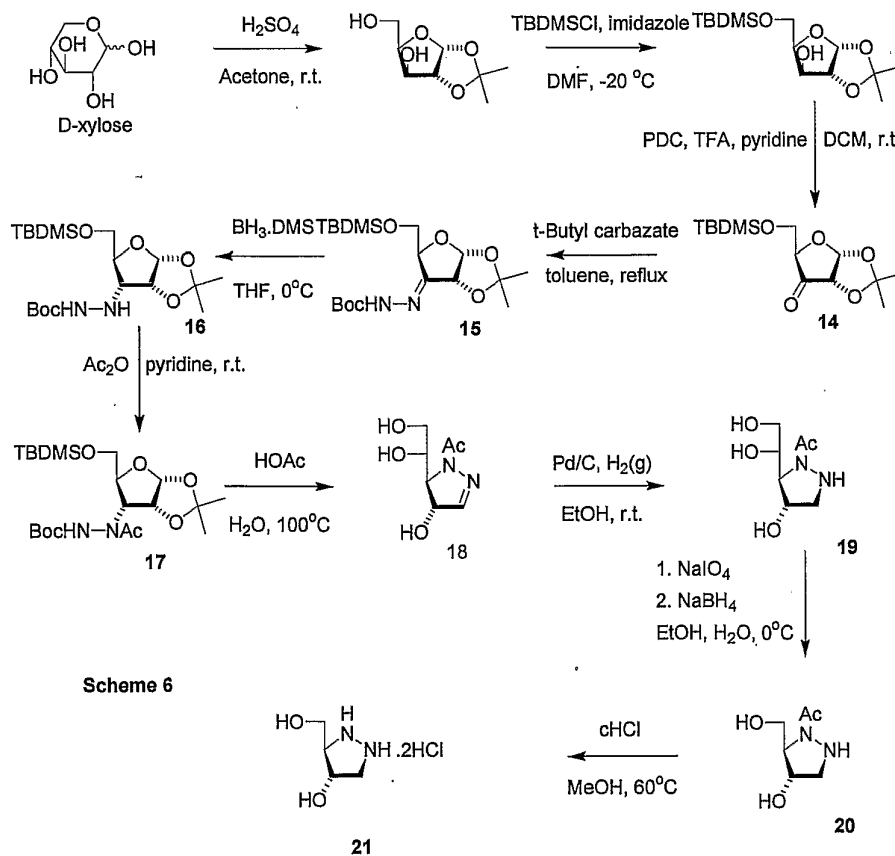
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Example 12

(3R,4R)-1-[(8-Aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-

(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (**13**). A solution of **11** (100 mg) in 7 N NH_3 in methanol (4mL) was heated in a sealed tube at 120 °C overnight. The reaction was then concentrated *in vacuo* and the crude residue redissolved in methanol (1 mL) and CHCl_3 (1 mL) and allowed to stand overnight. The reaction was concentrated again *in vacuo* and the resulting residue purified by chromatography to afford **13** (61 mg, 84%). ^{13}C NMR δ 152.4, 151.5, 139.1, 134.8, 122.7, 71.7, 61.1, 60.3, 55.0, 48.4, 48.2.

15



Example 13

5-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene- α -D-erythro-pentofuranos-3-ulose (tert-butoxycarbonyl)hydrazone (15). A toluene (150 mL) solution of **14** (11.5 g, 38 mmol), tert-butyl carbazate (17 g, 128 mmol) and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (1.15 g, 4.6 mmol) was stirred overnight at 70 °C. On completion the reaction was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ and water, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a syrup. Purification by chromatography afforded **15** (12.5 g, 79%) as an oil. ¹H NMR δ 8.43 (brs, 1H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (m, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 0.82 (s, 9H), -0.03 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR δ 153.5, 152.8, 114.3, 105.7, 82.0, 81.7, 76.2, 66.2, 28.6, 28.0, 27.5, 26.2, 18.5. HRMS (MH⁺) calc. for C₁₉H₃₇N₂O₆Si: 417.2421. Found 417.2398.

Example 14

3-(2-tert-Butoxycarbonylhydrazino)-5-O-tert-butyldimethylsilyl-3-deoxy-1,2-O-isopropylidene- α -D-ribofuranose (16). Borane.DMS complex (15 mL, ~10M, 150 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of **15** (12.5 g, 30 mmol) at -78 °C under an inert atmosphere. The reaction was allowed to warm to r.t., quenched cautiously with methanol and then the resulting solution concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude syrup obtained was co-distilled with aliquots of methanol (3 x 100 mL) to afford **16** (12.5 g, 100%) as an oil which was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR δ 6.29 (brs, 1H), 5.67 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (t, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (brs, 1H), 3.75 (m, 2H), 3.72 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 9H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 0.82 (s, 9H), -0.03 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR δ 156.9, 112.8, 104.6, 80.7, 80.4, 80.2, 65.0, 63.1, 28.7, 27.1, 26.9, 26.3, 18.7. HRMS (MH⁺) calc. for C₁₉H₃₈N₂O₆Si: 418.2499. Found 418.2509.

Example 15

3-(1-Acetyl-2-tert-butoxycarbonylhydrazino)-5-O-tert-butyldimethylsilyl-3-deoxy-1,2-O-isopropylidene- α -D-ribofuranose (17). Acetic anhydride (10 mL, excess) was added to a stirred solution of **16** (12.5 g, 30 mmol) in pyridine (30 mL) and the resulting reaction allowed to stir overnight at r.t.. On completion the

reaction was diluted with chloroform (500 mL) and washed with 10% HCl, water, saturated NaHCO₃, brine and then the organic layer was dried (MgSO₄), filtered and the filtrate concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a crude yellow oil. Purification by chromatography afforded **17** (6.5 g, 47%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR δ 7.20 (brs, 1H), 5.75 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (t, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 0.84 (s, 9H), -0.03 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR δ 174.5, 155.2, 112.7, 104.7, 82.0, 81.0, 77.2, 62.9, 62.0, 55.0, 28.5, 27.0, 26.7, 26.3, 21.1, 18.7. HRMS (MH⁺) calc. for C₂₁H₄₁N₂O₇Si: 461.2683. Found 461.2704.

Example 16

(3S,4S)-2-Acetyl-3,4-dihydro-3-[(1S)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-4-hydroxypyrazole (18). A stirred solution of **17** (2.0 g, 4.3 mmol) in 70% acetic acid (20 mL) was heated at 100 °C overnight. The resulting solution was allowed to cool, diluted with water (100 mL) and the aqueous solution extracted with chloroform (2 x 100 mL) and then the aqueous layer was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a syrup. The product was purified by chromatography to afford **18** (380 mg, 47%) as an oil. ¹³C NMR δ 173.1, 150.5, 112.7, 74.7, 69.6, 65.4, 62.4, 21.4. HRMS (MH⁺) calc. for C₇H₁₃N₂O₄: 189.0875. Found 189.0876.

Example 17

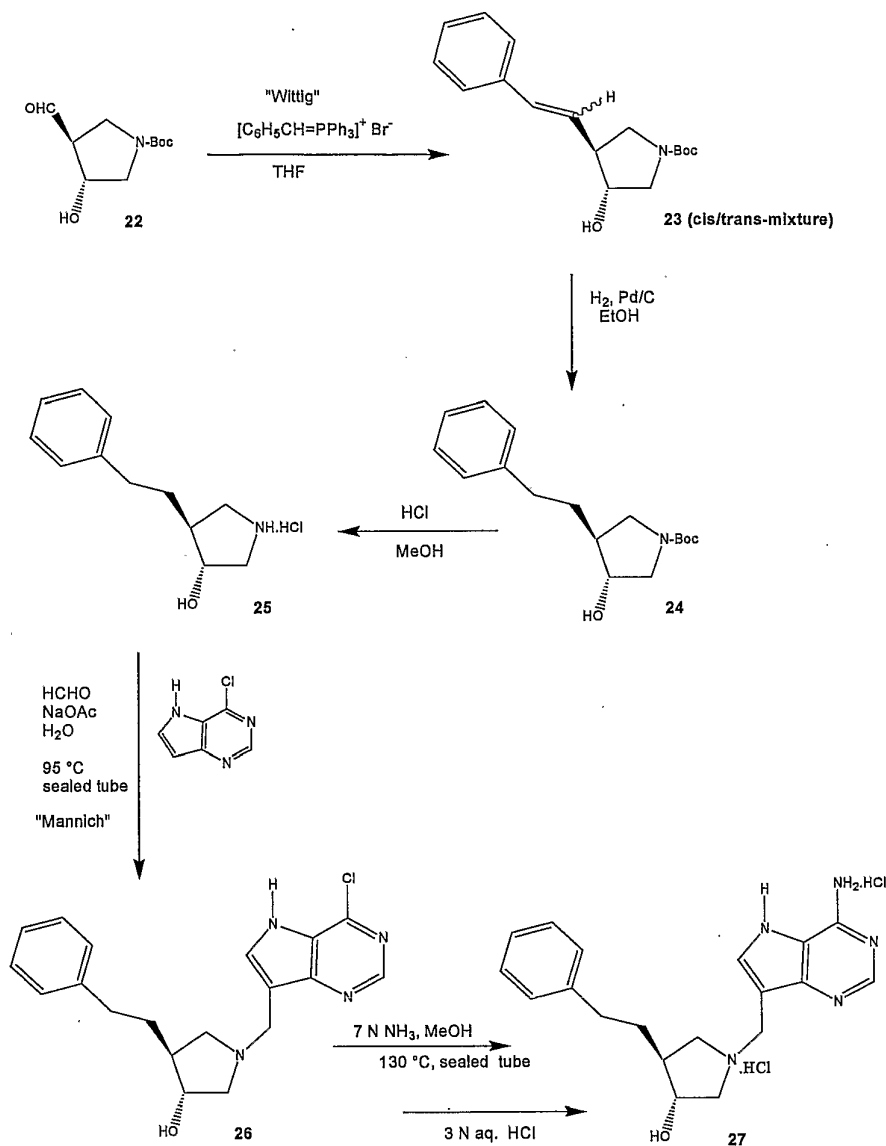
(3S,4S)-2-Acetyl-3-[(1S)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-4-hydroxypyrazolidine (19). Pearlman's catalyst (200 mg) was suspended in a solution of methanol with (3S,4S)-2-acetyl-1,5-dihydro-3-[(1S)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-4-hydroxy-pyrazole (**18**) (200 mg, 1.11 mmol) and stirred overnight under an atmosphere of hydrogen. The reaction was filtered through celite and the filtrate concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a crude oil. The crude product was purified by chromatography to afford **19** (85 mg, 43%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR δ 4.64 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (m, 2H), 3.61 (m, 2H), 3.36 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR δ 174.5, 75.4, 72.7, 68.2, 65.2, 56.4, 21.5. HRMS (M⁺) calc. for C₇H₁₄N₂O₄: 190.0953. Found 190.0951.

Example 18

(3R,4S)-2-Acetyl-4-hydroxy-3-hydroxymethyl-pyrazolidine (20). A solution of **19** (80 mg, 0.42 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of sodium periodate (150 mg, 0.7 mmol) in water (5 mL) at such a rate so as to maintain the reaction temperature at 5 °C. On completion, sodium borohydride (135 mg, xs) was added portionwise to the resulting suspension at such a rate so as to maintain the reaction temperature at 0 °C and on complete addition the reaction was allowed to warm to r.t.. Flash chromatography grade silica was added to the reaction and the resulting suspension was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a white solid. The solid was purified by chromatography to afford **20** (51 mg, 76%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR δ 4.43 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR δ 173.9, 76.5, 68.2, 62.5, 55.8, 21.7. HRMS (MH⁺) calc. for C₆H₁₃N₂O₃: 161.0926. Found 161.0920.

Example 19

(3R,4S)-4-Hydroxy-3-hydroxymethylpyrazolidine (21). Concentrated HCl (1.5 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of **20** (15 mg, 0.09 mmol) in methanol (1.5 mL) and the resulting reaction kept at 60 °C for 3 h. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford **21** (18 mg, 100%) as its dihydrochloride salt. ¹H NMR δ 4.60 (q, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.73 – 3.31 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR δ 72.6, 68.3, 60.2, 54.1.



Scheme 7

Example 20***N*-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-(3R,4S)-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethenyl)pyrrolidine**

- 5 **(23)** To a suspension of benzyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (1.75 g, 4.97 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) under argon at 0 °C was added 1.6 M BuLi in THF (2.33 mL, 3.73 mmol) and the deep red solution left stirring without cooling for 10 min. After re-cooling to 0 °C, the aldehyde **22** (335 mg, 1.56 mmol) (Gary B. Evans, Richard H. Furneaux, Andrzej Lewandowicz, Vern L. Schramm, and Peter

C. Tyler (2003), Synthesis of Second-Generation Transition State Analogues of Human Purine Nucleoside Phosphorylase, *J. Med. Chem.*, in press) in THF (5 mL) was added and the mixture stirred at r.t. for 12 h. The reaction was then quenched with water (1 mL), dichloromethane was added (100 mL) and the organic phase washed with sat. sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (15 mL), then water (15 mL). Drying over magnesium sulfate and concentration *in vacuo* followed by chromatography afforded a ca. 1:3 cis/trans mixture of **23** as a syrup (290 mg, 64 %). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm: **trans**: 7.28 (m, 5H), 6.49 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (dd, J = 15.9 and 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (m, 1H), 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.32 (m, 2H), 2.83 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H). **cis**: 7.27 (m, 5H), 6.58 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (dd, J = 11.6 Hz and 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (m, 1H), 3.65 (m, 2H), 3.21 (m, 2H), 2.88 (m, 1H), 1.44 (s, 9H).

Example 21

***N*-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-(3R,4S)-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine (24)**
To a solution of *N*-tert-butoxycarbonyl-(3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine **23** (290 mg, 1.00 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) was added 10 % Pd/C (250 mg) and the suspension was stirred under an atmosphere of hydrogen for 12 h. After filtration, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give 254 mg (87 %) of the title compound as a syrup. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm: 7.10 (m, 5H), 4.00 (m, 1H), 3.47 (m, 2H), 3.07 (m, 2H), 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm (note that some peaks are doubled due to slow conversion of rotamers): 155.17, 142.03, 128.83, 128.71, 126.37, 79.88, (74.94, 71.26), (53.17, 52.90), (49.90, 49.34), (46.11, 45.52), 34.41, 33.69, 28.91.

Example 22

(3R,4S)-3-Hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (25) To a solution of *N*-tert-butoxycarbonyl-(3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine **24** (254 mg, 0.87 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was added conc. HCl (~12 N, 4 mL) and the solution stirred at 40 °C for 30 min. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo* and azeotroping with toluene, the crude title compound was obtained as a greyish solid (202 mg, 0.89 mmol, 102 %).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, MeOH-d₄): δ ppm: 7.14 (m, 5H), 4.22 (m, 1H), 3.52 (dd, J = 11.8 and 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 12.3 and 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, J = 12.3 and 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (m, 2H), 2.20 (m, 1H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.62 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, MeOH-d₄): δ ppm: 142.94, 129.93, 129.89, 127.56, 75.56, 52.90, 48.55, 47.28, 35.18, 34.44.

Example 23

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-Deaza-6-chloro-purin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine (26)

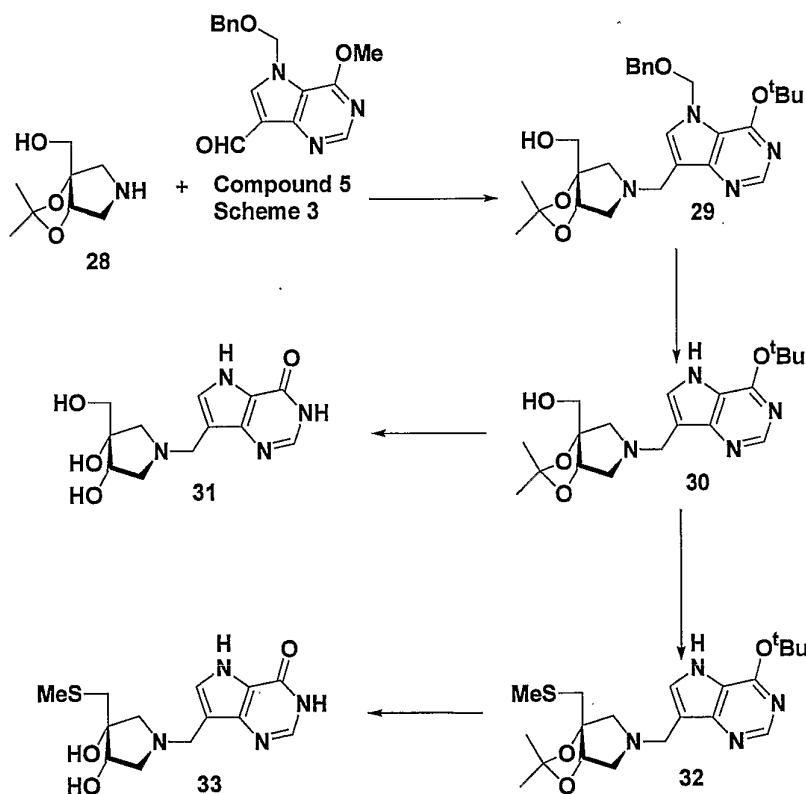
To a suspension of crude (3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride **25** (194 mg, 0.85 mmol) and 6-chloro-9-deazapurine (118 mg, 0.76 mmol) in water (2.2 mL) was added 37 % aqueous formaldehyde (70 μL, 0.94 mmol) and sodium acetate (70 mg, 0.85 mmol). The mixture was heated to 95 °C in a sealed tube under stirring for 12 h. After cooling, the dark brown slurry was diluted with 1,4-dioxane (3 mL) and the dark brown solution preabsorbed onto silica. Column chromatography afforded the title compound as a cream coloured/brownish film (104 mg, 38 %). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, MeOH-d₄): δ ppm: 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 5H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 4.18 (m, 1H), 3.56 (m, 2H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.04 (dd, J = 11.6 and 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.21 (m, 1H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.61 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, MeOH-d₄): δ ppm: 151.62, 151.35, 145.02, 142.99, 138.11, 129.84, 129.82, 127.46, 126.81, 107.73, 75.68, 61.00, 58.48, 49.51, 47.56, 35.26, 34.88.

Example 24

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine (27)

A solution of 7-[(3R,4R)-(3-Hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]-4-chloro-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine **26** (70 mg, 0.196 mmol) in 7 N methanolic ammonia (4 mL) was heated in a sealed tube at 130 °C under stirring for 3 h. After cooling, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up in methanol and the crude material preabsorbed onto silica. The material obtained after column chromatography was treated with 3 N aqueous HCl (4 mL) at 40 °C for 1 h. Lyophilisation afforded 31 mg (39 %) of the title compound as a cream coloured solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, D₂O): δ ppm: 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.26 (m, 5H), 4.33 (m, 4H), 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 2H), 2.75

(m, 2H), 2.37 (m, 1H), 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.66 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (300 MHz, D_2O): δ ppm (note that some peaks are doubled due to slow conversion of rotamers): 149.54, 144.47, 142.40, 133.05, 129.05, 128.85, 126.51, 113.64, 103.48, (74.87, 72.96), (55.34, 54.87), (52.59, 52.09), (45.96, 43.65), 33.30, 32.94, 32.33. ES-MS: m/z for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_5\text{O}$: $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$: 338.1979; calc. 338.4326.



Scheme 9

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Example 25

(3S, 4S)-1-[(7-N-Benzyloxymethyl-6-O-*tert*-butyl-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-4-hydroxymethyl-3,4-O-isopropylidene pyrrolidine (29). A solution of amine 28 (Bols, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1996, 37, 2097-2100) (0.50 g, 2.89 mmol) and aldehyde (5, Scheme 3) (1.0 g, 2.95 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (50 mL) was stirred with sodium triacetoxyborohydride (1.1 g, 5.2

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mmol) for 1 h and then was washed with aq NaHCO₃, dried and concentrated to dryness. Chromatography afforded title compound **29** (1.16 g, 2.34 mmol, 80 %) as a syrup. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 156.2, 150.3 (C), 150.0 (CH), 137.5 (C), 131.8, 128.8, 128.2, 127.8 (CH), 117.1, 114.6, 113.0, 91.7, 83.2 (C), 82.4 (CH), 77.3, 70.2, 65.7, 62.1, 60.5, 48.4 (CH₂), 29.1, 28.3 (CH₃).

Example 26

(3S,4S)-1-[(6-O-tert-Butyl-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-4-hydroxymethyl-3,4-O-isopropylidene pyrrolidine (30). A solution of **29** (1.1 g, 2.21 mmol) in ethanol (30 mL) was stirred under hydrogen in the presence of 10 % Pd/C (0.25 g). After 16 h additional catalyst was added and after 24 h the solids and solvent were removed. Chromatography of the residue afforded title compound **30** (0.35 g, 0.93 mmol, 42 %) as a syrup. ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD) δ 157.7 (C), 150.2 (CH), 149.8 (C), 131.0 (CH), 118.2, 113.7, 112.9, 93.1, 83.9 (C), 83.5 (CH), 66.4, 62.7, 61.0, 48.9 (CH₂), 29.4, 28.2 (CH₃).

Example 27

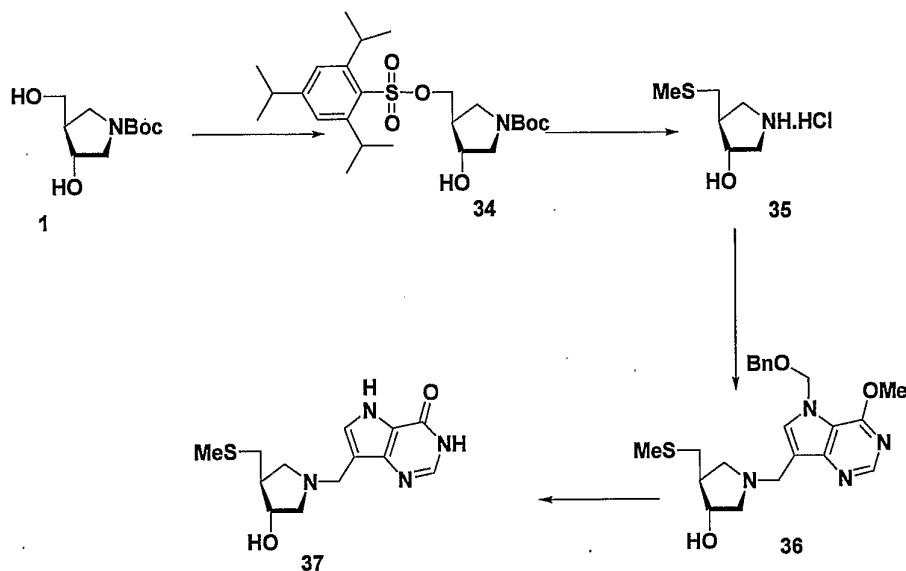
(3S,4S)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-4-hydroxymethyl pyrrolidine (31). A solution of **30** (0.15 g, 0.399 mmol) in methanol (2.5 mL) and CHCl₃ (2.5 mL) was allowed to stand for 1 h and then concentrated to dryness. Chromatography of the residue [(CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/aq NH₃ 10:6:1] afforded title compound **31** (0.095 g, 0.34 mmol, 85 %) as a white solid. ¹³C NMR (D₂O/DCI) (at 85 °C) δ 153.8 (C), 144.7 (CH), 138.0 (C), 132.8 (CH), 118.5, 103.8, 78.8 (C), 70.1 (CH), 63.5, 59.5, 57.3, 49.3 (CH₂).

Example 28

(3S,4R)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-4-methylthiomethyl pyrrolidine (33). Ethyldiisopropylamine (0.2 mL) was added to a suspension of **30** (0.14 g) in dichloromethane (5 mL) followed by methanesulfonyl chloride (0.045 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The resulting solution was processed normally and the crude product, in DMF (3 mL), was treated with sodium thiomethoxide (0.13 g) and the resulting mixture was heated at 90 °C for 4 h and then partitioned between toluene and water. The organic phase was washed with water, dried and concentrated. Chromatography

of the residue afforded **32** (0.075 g). A solution of this material in methanol (4 mL) and CHCl_3 (4 mL) was allowed to stand for 1 h, and then concentrated to dryness to give **33.HCl** (0.04 g, 62 %) as a white solid. ^{13}C NMR (D_2O) δ 153.4 (C), 145.0 (CH), 135.5 (C), 133.1 (CH), 118.6, 102.9, 79.2 (C), 71.9 (CH), 60.6, 56.7, 48.3, 39.2 (CH_2), 17.1 (CH_3).

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Scheme 10

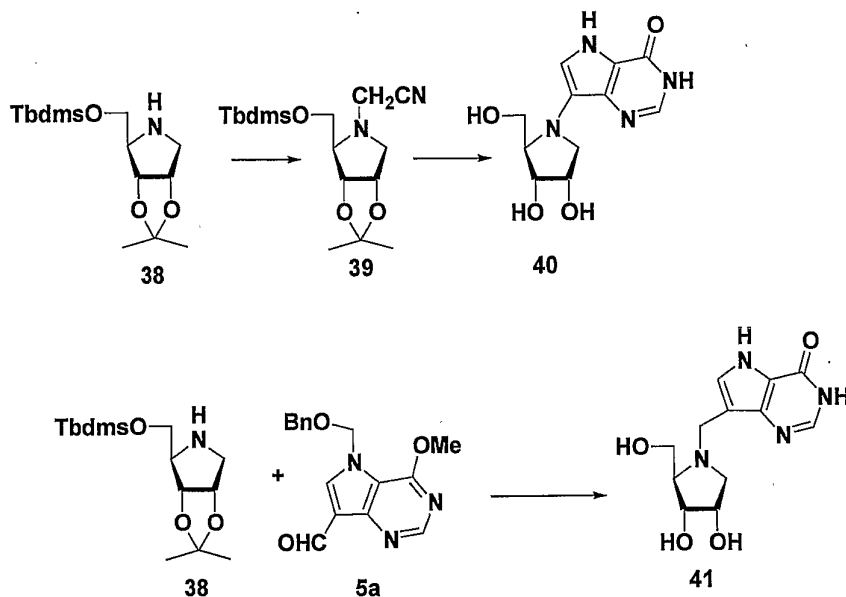
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Example 29**(3R,4S)-1-[(9-Deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (37).**

2,4,6-Triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (3.0 g) was added to a solution of **1** (1.0 g) in pyridine (20 mL) and the solution was stirred for 16 h, then was warmed to 60 °C for 1 h. Chloroform was added and the solution was washed with water, 2M aq HCl, and aq NaHCO_3 . Normal processing and chromatography gave 1.125 g of **34** as a colourless glass. A solution of 0.45 g of this material in DMF (5 mL) was treated with sodium thiomethoxide (0.2 g) and the mixture was stirred for 0.5 h. Toluene was added and the reaction was processed normally to give 0.115 g of crude material. A solution of this material in dichloromethane (5 mL) was treated with 4M HCl in

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dioxane (3 mL). After 1 h the solution was concentrated to dryness. The solid residue of **35** was dissolved in methanol (3 mL) containing 7-*N*-benzyloxymethyl-9-deaza-6-*O*-methylhypoxanthine-9-carbaldehyde (0.18 g), and sodium cyanoborohydride (0.088 g) was added. The mixture was stirred for 3 d. Chloroform was added and the mixture was processed normally. Chromatography then afforded **36** (0.178 g). This material in *CHCl*₃ (10 mL) was heated under reflux for 1 h, then the solution was concentrated to dryness. The residue was treated with methanol/25 % aq *NH*₃ (1:1) for 1 h and then concentrated to dryness. Chromatography afforded a solid material. This was dissolved in aq *HCl* and concentrated. Trituration of the residue with ethanol gave **37.HCl** (0.048 g) as a hygroscopic white solid. ¹³C NMR (*D*₂*O* at 85 °C) δ 154.6 (C), 144.5 (CH), 140.6 (C), 132.6 (CH), 118.6, 104.6 (C), 73.3 (CH), 59.3, 56.3, 48.0 (CH₂), 45.7 (CH), 34.7 (CH₂), 15.2 (CH₃).



Scheme 11

15

Example 30

5-*O*-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-*N*-cyanomethyl-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-D-ribose (39**).** Bromoacetonitrile (1.46 mL, 20.9 mmol) and ethyldiisopropylamine (5.46 mL, 56.9 mmol) were added to a solution of **38** (Horenstein, B.A.; Zabinski, R.F.; Schramm, V.L. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, *34*,

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7213-7216) (3.0 g, 10.45 mmol) in acetonitrile (20 mL). After 1 h, the solution was concentrated to dryness and chromatography of the residue afforded title compound **39** as a syrup (3.4 g, 10.4 mmol, 99 %). ^1H NMR δ 4.58 (dt, $J = 6.4$, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (dd, $J = 6.8$, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (d, $J = 17$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, $J = 10.9$, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (m, 1H), 3.56 (d, $J = 17$ Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd, $J = 9.8$, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.75 (dd, $J = 9.8$, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 0.82 (s, 9H), 0.09 (s, 3H), 0.08 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR δ 115.6, 113.6 (C), 82.2, 78.3, 68.6 (CH), 64.7, 59.3, 41.0 (CH₂), 27.6, 26.2, 25.6 (CH₃), 18.5 (C). HRMS (MH⁺) calc. For C₁₆H₃₁N₂O₃Si: 327.2104. Found: 327.2097.

Example 31

***N*-(9-Deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-D-ribitol hydrochloride (40.HCl)**. The *N*-cyanomethyl derivative **39** (0.5 g, 1.53 mmol) was converted into the title compound by the same sequence of reactions described previously in the preparation of Immucillin-H (Evans, G.B.; Furneaux, R.H.; Gainsford, G.J.; Schramm, V.L.; Tyler, P.C. *Tetrahedron* **2000**, *56*, 3053-3062) to give **40.HCl** as an amorphous powder (0.07 g, 0.23 mmol, 15 %). ^1H NMR (D₂O) δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 4.43 (m, 1H), 4.29-4.17 (m, 2H), 3.96 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.71 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR δ 154.2 (C), 144.3 (CH), 133.0 (C), 124.0 (CH), 117.8, 115.9 (C), 73.4, 70.4, 68.9 (CH), 62.9, 56.1 (CH₂). HRMS (M⁺) calc. For C₁₁H₁₅N₄O₄: 267.1093. Found: 267.1101.

Example 32.1

7-N-Benzylloxymethyl-9-deaza-9-formyl-6-O-methylhypoxanthine (5a). A solution of 7-N-benzylloxymethyl-9-bromo-9-deaza-6-O-methylhypoxanthine (G.B. Evans et al *J. Org. Chem.* 2001, *66*, 5723-5730) (1.0 g, 2.87 mmol) in anisole (10 mL) and ether (25 mL) was cooled to -70 °C and *n*-butyllithium (2.4 mL, 1.2 M) was added to the resulting suspension. After 10 min, dry *N,N*-dimethylformamide (1.1 mL, 14.2 mmol) was added to the clear solution which was stirred at -70 °C for 30 min and then quenched with water. Normal processing afforded a solid, which after trituration with ethanol gave title compound as a white solid (0.67 g, 2.26 mmol, 78 %) with m.p. 100-101 °C. ^1H NMR δ 10.30 (s, 1H), 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.21 (m, 5H), 5.77 (s, 2H),

4.55 (s, 2H), 4.14 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR δ 184.7 (CH), 157.0 (C), 153.0 (CH), 150.0 (C), 136.9 (CH), 136.5 (C), 129.0, 128.7, 128.1 (CH), 118.6, 116.7 (C), 78.3, 71.4 (CH₂), 54.3 (CH₃). HRMS (MH⁺) calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₃O₃ 340.1661 found: 340.1652.

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Example 32.2

***N*-(9-Deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-D-ribitol**

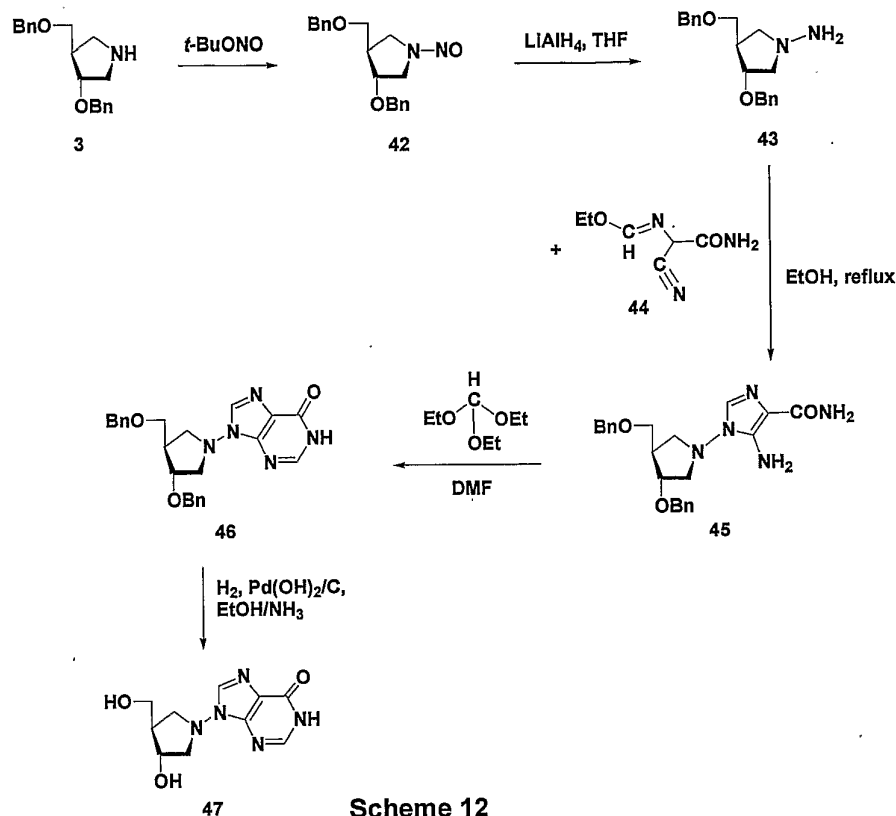
hydrochloride (41.HCl). The aldehyde (**5a**) (114 mg, 0.38 mmol) was added to a solution of **38** (Horenstein, B.A.; Zabinski, R.F.; Schramm, V.L. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, *34*, 7213-7216) (100 mg, 0.35 mmol) in methanol (1.5 mL), THF (0.5 mL) and acetic acid (100 μL) and the mixture was stirred for 10 min. Sodium cyanoborohydride (88 mg, 1.4 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 4 h, then partitioned between chloroform and aq. NaHCO₃. The organic layer was dried and concentrated to dryness. Chromatography of the residue afforded, presumably, *N*-(7-*N*-benzyloxymethyl-9-deaza-6-*O*-methylhypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl-5-*O*-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-D-ribitol as a syrup (175 mg, 0.31 mmol, 88 %). A solution of this material in ethanol (5 mL) was stirred with 10 % Pd/C (100 mg) in a hydrogen atmosphere for 16 h. The solids and solvent were removed and chromatography of the residue afforded a syrup (129 mg) which was dissolved in methanol (5 mL) and conc. HCl (5 mL) and the solution was heated under reflux for 2 h. The solution was concentrated to dryness and the residue redissolved in water and lyophilized to give title compound **41.HCl** as a powder (80 mg, 0.25 mmol, 80 %). ^1H NMR (D₂O) δ 8.57 (m, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 4.29 (m, 1H), 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.76 (m, 2H), 3.61 (m, 2H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 13.0, 3.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 153.6 (C), 144.8 (CH), 136.7 (C), 133.2 (CH), 118.5, 103.3 (C), 71.3, 70.3, 68.9 (CH), 57.4, 57.1, 50.1 (CH₂). HRMS (M⁺) calc. For C₁₂H₁₇N₄O₄: 281.1250. Found: 281.1260.

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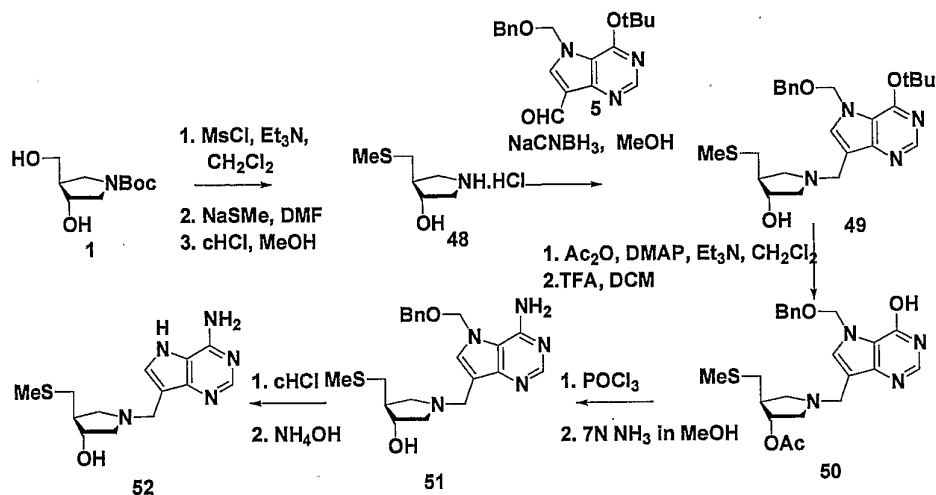
Example 33**(3R,4R)-3-Hydroxy-4-hydroxymethyl-1-(hypoxanthin-9-yl)pyrrolidine (47).**

tert-Butyl nitrite (3.5 mL, 30 mmol, 4 eq.) was added to a solution of the free base of **3** (2.25 g, 7.5 mmol) in dry THF (30 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 3 days. The solution was concentrated to dryness. Chromatography gave the N-nitroso compound **42** as a colorless syrup (2.05 g, 83%).

10 A solution of **42** (1.0 g, 3.1 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) was cooled to 0 °C under argon atmosphere and lithium aluminum hydride (1 g, 26.3 mmol) was added slowly. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h, then quenched carefully with a 15% solution of NaOH (25 mL) followed by water (10 mL). The mixture was extracted twice with chloroform, washed with aq NaHCO₃ and dried and concentrated to dryness. Chromatography (chloroform:ethyl

15

acetate:methanol, 5:2:1) afforded hydrazine **43** (0.41 g, 43%) as a syrup. Formimidate **44** (Watson, A.A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1974**, *39*, 2911-2916) (0.224 g, 1.44 mmol, 1.2 eq.) was added to a solution of **43** (0.375 g, 1.2 mmol) in ethanol (1.5 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 10 min, then allowed to cool. The solution was concentrated to dryness. Chromatography (chloroform:ethyl acetate:methanol, 5:2:1) gave the imidazole **45** as a light brown gum (0.155 g, 31%). A solution of **45** (77 mg, 0.183 mmol) in dry MeOH (1 mL) was treated with 5 M aq HCl (36.5 μ L, 0.183 mmol). The solvent was removed to leave the hydrochloride salt as a brown gum. DMF (1.5 mL) was added followed by triethyl orthoformate (0.304 mL, 1.83 mmol, 10 eq.) and the reaction mixture was heated at 120 °C for 30 min. After cooling the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (chloroform:ethyl acetate:methanol, 5:2:0.5) to afford the hypoxanthine **46** (49 mg, 62%) as a gum. Palladium hydroxide on carbon (20 mg, 20% Pd) was added to a solution of **46** (41 mg, 0.095 mmol) in ethanol (3 mL) and 25 % aqueous ammonia (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred under hydrogen at ambient temperature and pressure for 3 h. Then the catalyst was filtered off and washed with ethanol (1.5 mL). The solution was concentrated to dryness and chromatography of the residue (dichloromethane:methanol:aq. ammonia, 7:2:0.5) furnished the title compound **47** (21 mg, 88%) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (CD_3OD) δ 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 4.26 (m, 1H), 3.85-3.64 (m, 4H), 3.48-3.43 (m, 2H), 2.49-2.41 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 159.3 (C), 149.7 (C), 146.7 (CH), 142.3 (CH), 124.7 (C), 72.7 (CH), 63.7, 63.6, 58.4 (CH_2), 50.2 (CH). M/Z calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_5\text{O}_3$ (MH^+): 252.109. Found: 252.108.



Scheme 13

Example 34**(3R,4S)-3-Hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (48).**

5 Methanesulfonyl chloride (180 μL , 23 mmol) was added dropwise to a CH_2Cl_2 solution of triethylamine (400 μL , 29 mmol) and (3R,4R)-1-tert-butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (1) (2 g, 9.2 mmol) at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ and the resulting solution allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 , washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*.

10 The resulting residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography to afford (3R,4R)-1-tert-butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-4-(mesyloxymethyl)pyrrolidine (900 mg) as an oil. Without further purification the product was dissolved in DMF (10 mL) and stirred with sodium thiomethoxide (400 mg, 5.7 mmol) at room temp. overnight. The reaction was diluted with toluene washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by silica

15 gel flash chromatography to afford (3R,4S)-1-tert-butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (600 mg, 2.4 mmol) as a syrup, which was not further characterised. (3R,4S)-1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)pyrrolidine was dissolved in MeOH (5.0 mL) and cHCl (1.0 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (3R,4S)-3-hydroxy-4-

20 (methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (48) as a syrup (442 mg, 26% overall yield for three steps). ^{13}C NMR (D_2O) δ 73.5, 51.5, 48.6, 45.2, 34.3, 14.9.

Example 35

(3R,4S)-1-[(6-*tert*-Butoxy-7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (49). Sodium cyanoborohydride (200 mg, 3.2 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **5** (800 mg, 2.32 mmol) and **48** (550 mg, 3.00 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The crude reaction was adsorbed onto silica, dry loaded onto a silica gel flash chromatography column and eluted to afford **49** (1.10 g, 78%) as a solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.23 (m, 5H), 5.75 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.12 (m, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (m, 2H), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.38 (m, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 156.4, 150.3, 150.3, 137.5, 133.3, 128.8, 128.2, 127.8, 117.1, 111.7, 83.5, 77.5, 76.1, 70.4, 61.4, 58.2, 48.8, 47.4, 37.3, 29.0, 16.0.

Example 36

(3R,4S)- 3-Acetoxy-1-[(7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (50). Acetic anhydride (1 mL, xs) was added dropwise to a solution of compound **49** (1.1 g, 2.3 mmol), DMAP (30 mg, cat.), and Et₃N (2 mL, xs) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) at room temp. After 15 min. the reaction was diluted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with satd. NaHCO₃, water, brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the product (1.35 g) as a syrup. TFA (5 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of the syrup in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) at room temp. and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and washed with satd. NaHCO₃, water and brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (3R,4S)- 3-acetoxy-1-[(7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**50**) (800 mg, 76%) as a foam. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 5H), 5.82 (s, 2H), 5.11 (brs, 1H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 3.80-3.59 (m, 3H), 3.32 (brs, 1H), 2.80-2.69 (m, 2H), 2.57 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 155.4, 145.8, 143.3, 137.2, 134.2, 128.8, 128.3, 128.1, 118.1, 106.9, 77.4, 75.7, 71.2, 57.0, 55.8, 48.1, 43.5, 35.0, 21.0, 16.1. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₂₃H₂₉N₄O₄S: 457.1910. Found 457.2412.

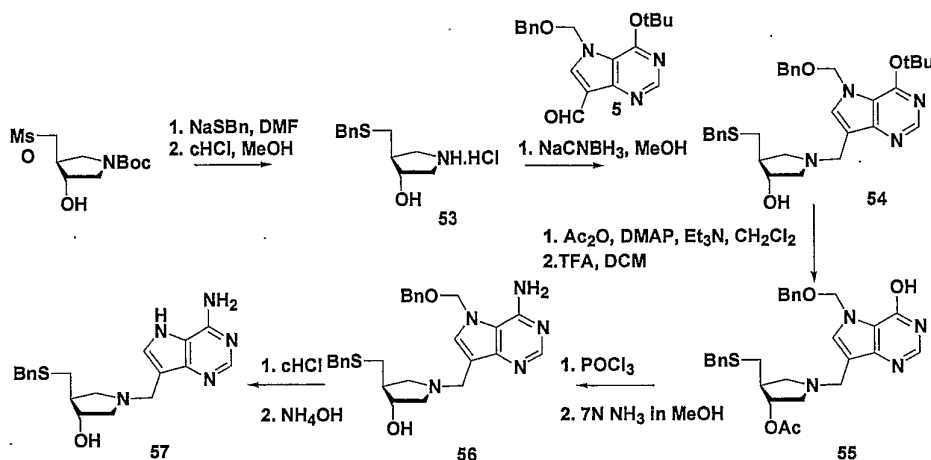
Example 37

(3R,4S)- 1-[(7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]- 3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (51). Amine **50** (800 mg, 1.75 mmol) was dissolved in POCl₃ and heated at reflux for 1h. The resulting solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and codistilled with toluene (x2) to afford a solid residue. Without further purification the product from the previous reaction was redissolved in 7 N NH₃ in MeOH (15 mL) and heated in a sealed tube at 110 °C overnight. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and the resulting residue purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford (3R,4S)- 1-[(7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**51**) (500 mg, 69%) as a syrup. ¹H NMR (d₄-MeOH) δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 5H), 5.74 (s, 2H), 4.63 (s, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 4.26-4.22 (m, 1H), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.76-2.67 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 153.4, 153.0, 149.9, 138.1, 137.0, 130.0, 129.7, 129.3, 116.5, 106.5, 79.5, 75.0, 72.3, 60.9, 57.8, 50.1, 47.6, 36.6, 16.0.

Example 38

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (52). Amine (**51**) (150 mg, 0.37 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl₃ (5 mL) and the resulting solution heated under reflux for 90 min.. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water (50 mL) and washed with CHCl₃ (x2), and the aqueous layer concentrated *in vacuo*, followed by codistillation with water (x2). The resulting residue was redissolved in NH₄OH, concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford (3R,4S)- 1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]- 3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**52**) (69 mg, 65%) as a solid. M.p. 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (D₂O) δ 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 4.00-3.95 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.40-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.16-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.93 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (D₂O) δ 150.5, 150.1, 145.4, 130.4, 113.6, 108.33, 75.0, 59.8, 56.6, 47.4, 45.9, 35.9, 14.8. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₁₃H₂₀N₅OS: 294.1389.

Found 294.1394. Anal. Calc. for $C_{13}H_{19}N_5OS \cdot 4/3H_2O$ C, 49.19; H, 6.88; N, 22.06; S, 10.10. Found C, 49.86; H 6.58; N, 21.63; S, 9.74.



Scheme 14

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Example 39**(3R,4S)-3-Hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (53).**

(3R,4R)-1-*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-4-(mesyloxymethyl)pyrrolidine (see

Example 34, 1.10 g, 3.7 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (2 mL) and added dropwise to a solution of benzyl mercaptan (870 μ L, 7.4 mmol) and NaH (270 mg, 60% oil dispersion, 6.8 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) and stirred at room temp. for 1h. The reaction was diluted with toluene, washed with water then brine, dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography to afford (3R,4S)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine as a syrup. Without further characterisation, the product was dissolved in MeOH (5.0 mL) and cHCl (1.0 mL) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (3R,4S)-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (53) as a syrup (730 mg, 76% overall yield for two steps). 1H NMR (D_2O) δ 7.40-7.27 (m, 5H), 4.26-4.22 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 2H); 3.56 (dd, $J = 12.4, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, $J = 12.8, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd, $J = 12.8, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, $J = 12.4, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.61-2.52 (m, 1H), 2.47-2.34 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (D_2O) δ 138.7, 129.5, 129.3, 127.9, 73.5, 51.5, 48.5, 45.4, 35.9, 31.8. (MH^+) calc for $C_{12}H_{18}NOS$: 224.1109. Found 224.1102.

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Example 40

(3R,4S)-1-[(6-*tert*-Butoxy-7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (54). Sodium cyanoborohydride (200 mg, 3.2 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **5** (800 mg, 2.32 mmol) and **53** (570 mg, 2.2 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The crude reaction was adsorbed onto silica, dry loaded onto a silica gel flash chromatography column and eluted to afford **54** (1.10 g, 78%) as a solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 10H), 5.75 (s, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.12-3.02 (m, 2H), 2.69-2.63 (m, 1H), 2.54-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.39 (m, 2H), 1.70 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 156.6, 150.6, 150.0, 138.3, 137.5, 134.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 127.8, 117.1, 109.0, 83.9, 77.9, 75.2, 70.7, 60.5, 57.7, 49.1, 47.0, 36.8, 33.7, 29.0. (MH⁺) calc for C₃₁H₄₉N₄O₃S: 547.2743. Found 547.2723.

Example 41

(3R,4S)-3-Acetoxy-1-[(7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (55). Acetic anhydride (1 mL, excess) was added dropwise to a solution of **54** (1.16 g, 2.12 mmol), DMAP (30 mg, cat.), and Et₃N (2 mL, excess) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) at room temp. After 15 min. the reaction was diluted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with satd. NaHCO₃, water then brine, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the product (1.35 g) as a syrup. TFA (5 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of the syrup in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) at room temp. and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and washed with satd. NaHCO₃ then water, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (3R,4S)-3-acetoxy-1-[(7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**55**) (900 mg, 80% for two steps) as a foam. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 10H), 5.91 (s, 2H), 4.85 (brs, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 3.86-3.74 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.16-3.11 (m, 1H), 2.84-2.80 (m, 2H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.50-2.36 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 171.3, 156.2, 145.8, 141.9, 138.6, 137.5, 131.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4,

117.9, 115.2, 78.9, 77.0, 70.9, 59.8, 58.7, 48.3, 45.1, 36.9, 34.4, 21.5. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₂₉H₃₃N₄O₄S: 533.2223. Found 533.2236.

Example 42

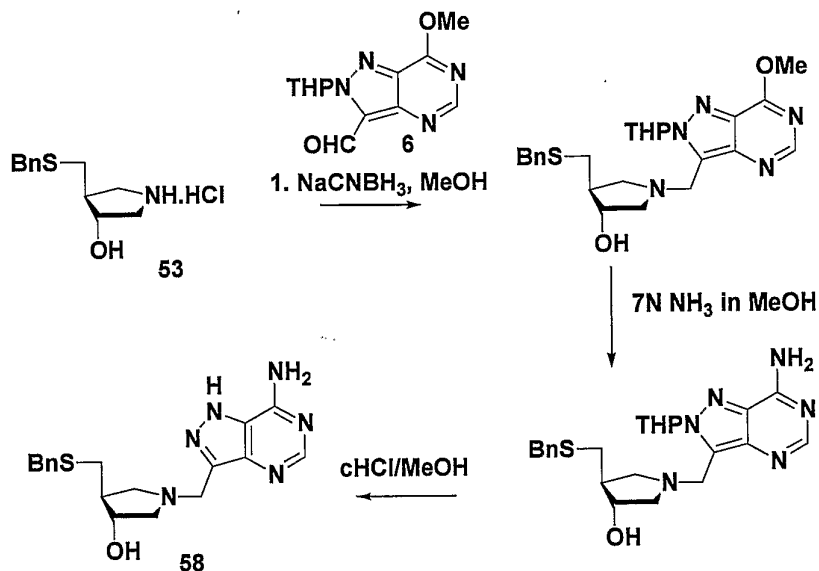
5 **(3R,4S)-1-[(7-Benzyloxymethyl-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]- 3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (56)**. Amine **55** (900 mg, 1.7 mmol) was dissolved in POCl₃ (15 mL) and heated at reflux for 1h. The resulting solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and codistilled with toluene (x2) to afford a solid residue. Without further purification this residue was redissolved in 7 N NH₃ in
10 MeOH (15 mL) and heated in a sealed tube at 130 °C overnight. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and the resulting residue purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford (3R,4S)-1-[(7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]- 3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**56**) (720 mg, 87% yield for two steps) as a syrup. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.25 (m, 10H), 5.52 (s, 2H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H),
15 3.54-3.48 (m, 1H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 3.4Hz, 2H), 2.83 (brs, 1H), 2.63-2.45 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 152.2, 151.6, 149.5, 138.2, 135.7, 134.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.2, 127.5, 115.2, 107.4, 77.6, 74.9, 70.7, 60.2, 57.3, 48.5, 46.9, 46.3, 36.7, 33.5, 23.1.

Example 43

20 **(3R,4S)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (57)**. Amine **56** (330 mg, 0.7 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of MeOH (4 mL) and CHCl₃ (4 mL) and heated under reflux for 90 min. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water (50 mL), washed with CHCl₃ (x2), and the aqueous layer concentrated *in vacuo*, followed by codistillation with water (x2). The resulting residue was redissolved in NH₄OH, concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford (3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]- 3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**57**) (30 mg, 12%) as a solid. ¹H NMR (d₄-MeOH) δ 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.16 (m, 5H), 3.93-3.90 (m, 1H),
25 3.83-3.74 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.03-2.97 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.66-2.58 (m, 2H), 2.38 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 7.2 Hz,

1H), 2.20-2.14 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (d_4 -MeOH) δ 152.5, 151.4, 147.4, 140.4, 130.4, 130.4, 129.8, 128.3, 115.5, 112.9, 77.3, 62.7, 59.2, 49.3, 48.6, 37.5, 35.6. HRMS (MH^+) calc for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_5\text{OS}$: 370.1702. Found 370.1694.

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Scheme 15

Example 44

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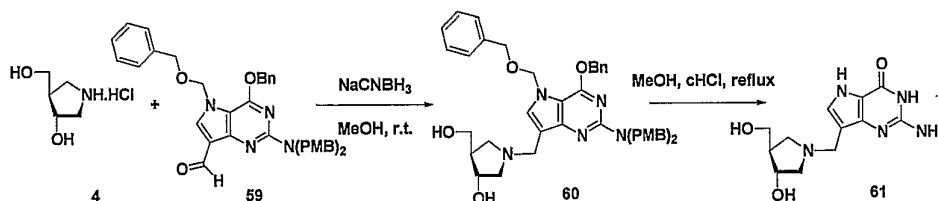
(3R,4S)-1-[(8-Aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (58).

15

Sodium cyanoborohydride (20 mg, 0.32 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 6 (180 mg, 0.52 mmol) and (3R,4S)-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (53) (95 mg, 0.37 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) and stirred overnight at room temp.. The crude reaction was adsorbed onto silica, dry loaded onto a silica gel flash chromatography column and eluted to afford (3R,4S)-1-[(8-aza-9-deaza-8-(tetrahydropyran-2-yl)-6-methoxyhypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (80 mg, 46%) as a foam. This was redissolved in 7 N NH₃ in MeOH (15 mL) and heated in a sealed tube at 110 °C overnight. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and the resulting residue purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford (3R,4S)-1-[(8-aza-9-deaza-8-

20

(tetrahydropyran-2-yl)-adenin-9-yl[methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine. The product was not characterized but redissolved in methanol (2.0 mL) and cHCl (2mL), concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue triturated with isopropanol to afford (3R,4S)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (**58**) (52 mg, 82%) as a white solid. ^{13}C NMR (d_4 -MeOH) δ 153.7, 152.0, 139.9, 138.8, 135.1, 130.4, 130.0, 128.5, 124.6, 74.6, 61.4, 58.4, 50.4, 47.7, 37.4, 33.4. (MH^+) calc for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_6\text{OS}$: 371.1654. Found 371.1670.



Scheme 16

Example 45

7-Benzyl-9-deaza-9-formyl-2,2-bis(4-methoxybenzyl)guanine (**59**).

n-Butyllithium (0.5 mL, 1.5 M) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 7-benzyl-9-deaza-9-bromo-2,2-bis(4-methoxybenzyl)guanine (Evans, G.B.; Furneaux, R.H.; Hausler, H.; Larsen, J.S.; Tyler, P.C. manuscript in preparation) in diethyl ether (6 mL) and anisole (3 mL) at $-80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ under an inert atmosphere. The reaction was stirred for an additional 30 min at $-80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and then DMF (1.0 mL) was added and the reaction was allowed to warm to room temp. The reaction was quenched with water (50 mL) and extracted with chloroform (2 x 100 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a solid residue. The solid was triturated with ethanol to afford **59** (280 mg, 72%) as a white solid. M.p. $172\text{-}174\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR δ 10.25 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.30-7.21 (m, 13H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 5H), 5.62 (s, 2H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 4H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR δ 185.5, 159.4, 159.1, 156.5, 153.9, 136.9, 136.7, 134.9, 131.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 117.3, 114.2,

111.0, 78.4, 71.0, 67.9, 55.7, 49.5. HRMS (MH⁺) calc. for C₃₈H₃₇N₄O₅: 629.2764.
Found 629.2749.

Example 46

5 **(3R,4R)-1-[[6-O-Benzyl-7-benzyloxymethyl-9-deaza-N²,N²-bis(4-methoxybenzyl)guanin-9-yl]methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine (60).** Sodium cyanoborohydride (200 mg, 3.0 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **59** (530 mg, 0.84 mmol) and 4.HCl (163 mg, 1.06 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) and the mixture was then stirred overnight at room temperature. The
10 reaction mixture was absorbed onto silica and concentrated *in vacuo*. Chromatography of the resulting residue afforded **60** (430 mg, 70%) as a white solid. M.p. 98–100 °C. ¹H NMR δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.12 (s, 14H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 5.59 (s, 2H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 4.85-4.73 (m, 4H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.23-4.12 (m, 3H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.50-3.35 (m, 3H), 3.20 (dd, J = 12.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d,
15 J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 11.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (brs, 1H). ¹³C NMR δ 159.0, 158.4, 156.7, 153.1, 137.6, 137.0, 135.0, 131.5, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 125.7, 114.3, 110.6, 105.1, 78.1, 73.1, 70.8, 68.0, 62.2, 60.7, 55.7, 54.8, 49.2, 48.9. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₄₃H₄₈N₅O₆: 730.3605. Found 730.3629.

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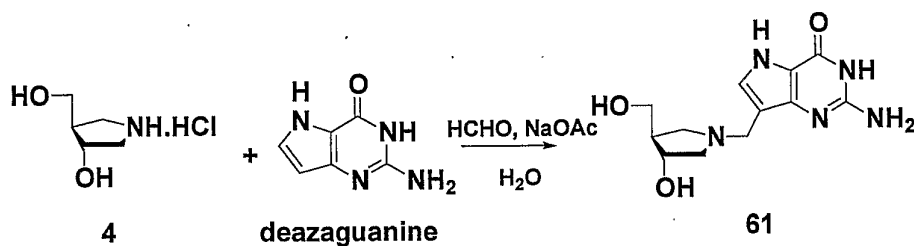
Example 47

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazaguanin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (61). HCl (2 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of **60** (370 mg, 0.5 mmol) in methanol (4 mL) and the resulting solution
25 heated under reflux for 4 h. The reaction was cooled to room temp. and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was partitioned between water and chloroform, separated and the water layer concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel and ion exchange chromatography of the resulting residue afforded **61** (39 mg, 28%)
30 as a white solid. M.p. 223–225 °C. ¹H NMR δ 7.18 (s, 1H), 4.03-3.98 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 3.55 (dd, J = 11.1, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, J = 11.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 10.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 10.9, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 10.9, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (dd, J = 10.3, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.20-2.09 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR δ 158.6, 152.8, 143.5, 129.6, 112.7, 107.9, 72.8, 62.6, 60.2, 54.8, 48.9, 47.8. HRMS

(MH⁺) calc for C₁₂H₁₈N₅O₃: 280.1410. Found: 280.1413. Anal.
(C₁₂H₁₇N₅O₃·½H₂O) C, H, N.

Example 48: Mannich reaction - General Procedure

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Scheme 17

10

Example 48.1 – General Procedure

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazaguanin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine (61).

(3R,4R)-3-Hydroxy-4-

(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride (**4**) (154 mg, 1.0 mmol) and sodium acetate (82 mg, 1.0 mmol) were dissolved in water (2 mL) and to the solution were added aqueous formaldehyde (82 μL, 1.0 mmol) and deazaguanine (120 mg, 0.8 mmol). The reaction was stirred at 95 °C for 12 h. Silica gel (1.0 g) was added and the mixture was evaporated to dryness. Purification by chromatography on silica gel, using CH₂Cl₂: MeOH:NH₄OH (5:4:1) as the eluent, afforded **61** as the acetic acid salt. After conversion to the HCl salt and ¹H and ¹³C-

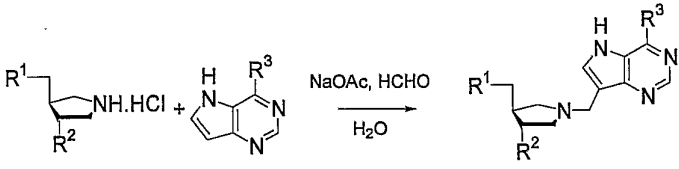
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NMR spectra analysis, the compound was found to be identical in all respects with that previously reported (Evans, G. B.; Furneaux, R. H.; Lewandowicz, A.; Schramm, V. L.; Tyler, P. C. *J. Med. Chem.*, in press.)

25

Table: Further Compounds Prepared via the Mannich Reaction General Procedure



compound	time (h)	substituents			yield (%)
		R ¹	R ²	R ³	
8	16	OH	OH	OH	47
10	1	OH	OH	NH ₂	65
57	1	SBn	OH	NH ₂	72
62	1	SPhpCl	OH	NH ₂	72
63	3	OH	OH	Cl	78
64	3	OH	OH	N ₃	65
65	1	OAc	OAc	NH ₂	49

5

Example 48.2

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-

hydroxymethylpyrrolidine (**8**). The Mannich reaction general procedure (above) was followed to afford compound **8** as the acetic acid salt. After conversion to the HCl salt and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra analysis, the compound was found to be identical in all respects with that previously reported. (Evans, G. B.; Furneaux, R. H.; Lewandowicz, A.; Schramm, V. L.; Tyler, P. C. *J. Med. Chem.*, in press.)

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Example 48.3

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-

(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (**10**). The Mannich reaction general procedure (above) was followed to afford compound **10** as the acetic acid salt. ¹H NMR (d₄-MeOH) δ 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 4.27 (s, 1H), 4.22 (quintet, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (m, 2H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (brs, 1H), 1.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (d₄-MeOH) 152.9, 151.9, 147.1, 132.0, 115.8, 108.2, 73.6, 63.1,

20

61.9, 56.0, 50.8, 49.5, 23.7. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₁₂H₁₈N₅O₂: 264.1461. Found 264.1457.

Example 48.4

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-

(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**57**). The Mannich reaction general procedure (above) was followed to afford compound **57** as the acetic acid salt. The acetic acid salt was converted to the free base via ion exchange chromatography. ¹H NMR (d₄-MeOH) 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.26 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 3.93 – 3.90 (m, 1H), 3.83 – 3.74 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.03 – 2.97 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.66 – 2.58 (m, 2H), 2.38 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.20 – 2.14 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (d₄-MeOH) 152.5, 151.4, 147.4, 140.4, 130.4, 130.4, 129.8, 115.5, 112.9, 77.3, 62.7, 59.2, 49.3, 48.6, 37.5, 35.6. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₁₉H₂₄N₅OS: 370.1702. Found 370.1694.

Example 48.5

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(4-

chlorophenylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine (**62**). The Mannich reaction general procedure (above) was followed to afford compound **62** as the acetic acid salt. ¹H NMR (d₄-MeOH) 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.35 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 4.30 (m, 1H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.15 (m, 4H), 2.89 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (brs, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (d₄-MeOH) 153.0, 151.8, 146.1, 135.7, 134.0, 133.2, 132.2, 130.7, 115.7, 105.5, 74.6, 60.4, 57.3, 49.2, 47.7, 36.1, 23.0. HRMS (MH⁺) calc for C₁₈H₂₁ClN₅OS: 390.1155. Found 390.1264.

Example 48.6

(3R,4R)-1-[(6-Chloro-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-

(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (**63**). The Mannich reaction general procedure (above) was followed to afford compound **63** as the acetic acid salt. ¹H NMR (D₂O) 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.31 (m, 1H), 3.68 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (brs, 1H), 1.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (d₄-MeOH) 149.7, 148.6, 143.4, 137.6, 124.8, 104.5, 71.3, 60.7, 59.8,

54.4, 48.0, 47.8, 23.5. HRMS (MH^+) calc for $C_{12}H_{16}N_4O_2$: 283.0962. Found 283.0973.

Example 48.7

5 **(3R,4R)-1-[(6-Azido-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine (64)**. The Mannich reaction general procedure (above) was followed to afford compound **64** as the acetic acid salt. 1H NMR (D_2O) 9.52 (s, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 4.62 (s, 2H), 4.38 (m, 1H), 3.78 (dd, $J = 12.0, 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.55 (t, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.42 (brd, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, $J = 11.9, 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.48 (brs, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (D_2O) 141.7, 138.6, 133.6, 132.2, 111.7, 107.2, 71.4, 60.8, 59.9, 54.6, 48.0, 48.0, 23.7.

Example 48.8

15 **(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-acetoxy-4-(acetoxymethyl)pyrrolidine (65)**. The Mannich reaction general procedure (above) was followed to afford compound **65** as the acetic acid salt. 1H NMR (D_2O) 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 5.05 (quintet, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.23 – 4.06 (m, 4H), 3.40 (dd, $J = 10.5, 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.27 – 3.12 (m, 2H), 2.77 (dd, $J = 10.5, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.63 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.98 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (D_2O) 172.9, 172.6, 153.0, 151.1, 145.4, 132.1, 115.6, 108.8, 76.6, 65.1, 59.6, 55.8, 48.6, 45.7, 23.4, 21.3, 21.1. HRMS (MH^+) calc for $C_{16}H_{22}N_5O_4$: 348.1672. Found 348.1669.

Example 49

Inhibition of PNP

25 The reaction involves the conversion of inosine (1 mM) and inorganic phosphate (50 mM, pH 7.4) to hypoxanthine and α -D-ribose 1-phosphate. Analysis by this method requires that the inhibitor concentration be present at least 10x the enzyme concentration. Enzyme was present at 1.6 pM. The reaction progress was followed in a coupled assay by monitoring the formation of uric acid from oxidation of hypoxanthine by xanthine oxidase (128 μ g; 59 munits/ml reaction mixture). The inhibitor concentration from 0 to 1 nM was used to determine the initial dissociation constant. K_i was determined from the time interval of 0 to 4

min and the equilibrium dissociation constant K_i^* was determined from the time interval from 35 to 45 min. Inhibition constants (K_i or K_i^*) were determined according to the equations $v = (k_{cat})(A)/(K_m(1 + I/K_i) + A)$ for K_i or $v = (k_{cat})(A)/(K_m(1 + I/K_i^*) + A)$ for K_i^* .

5

The kinetic curves for human PNP inhibited by compound (8) are shown in Figure 1; the concentration of inhibitor is indicated on the right hand side.

Example 50

10

Inhibition of MTAP and MTAN

15

Continuous spectrophotometric assays as well as discontinuous assays were used to characterize the inhibitors of the invention and *in vivo* inhibition of MTAP and/or MTAN. In the continuous spectrophotometric assays the conversion of MTA into adenine was measured as a decrease in absorbance at 274 nm. At 274 nm, the difference in spectral properties is maximum and the millimolar extinction coefficient (cm^{-1}) is 1.6 for the conversion of MTA to adenine. In the discontinuous assay, mixtures of 10 to 20 μL containing 50 μM [2,8- ^3H]MTA (285 cpm/pmol) in 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.5, 10 mM KCl and enzyme were incubated at room temperature. The reactions were stopped by the addition of 1 μL of concentrated HCl or 60 % perchloric acid. Adenine was added as a carrier (1 to 2 μL of 6 mM) and samples of 5 μL were spotted onto thin layer cellulose sheets and developed in 1M ammonium acetate pH 7.55 and isopropanol at a ratio of 9:1. Following development, adenine spots were located by ultraviolet light absorbance, excised and counted for the content of tritium. For analysis of MTAP activity in blood samples, 6 μL of a mixture containing 1:1 blood:0.6% Triton X-100 was added to the assay mixture described above and samples taken at appropriate times for analysis by thin layer chromatography. Assays for MTAP activity from mouse liver were accomplished in a similar manner. Liver extracts (3 μL) containing approximately 100 μg of protein were added to the assay mixtures for appropriate times followed by analysis by thin layer chromatography.

30

Slow-Onset Inhibition and Inhibition Constants

The kinetics for slow onset inhibition and the measurement of K_i and K_i^* values were carried out by adding enzyme of known concentration (1 to 5 nM) to reaction mixtures having high concentrations of substrate and various concentrations of inhibitors. Substrate concentrations of 150 μ M were typically used for MTA nucleosidase and 200 μ M for MTA phosphorylase. These concentrations correspond to an OD between 0.7 and 1.1 at 274 nm. The formation of product is monitored as a decrease in absorbance at 274 nm. Conditions for K_i^* determination used high concentration of substrate. Two controls, one having no inhibitor and other no enzyme were included in the experiment. The K_i values of these enzymes for the inhibitors were calculated by fitting in the ratio of initial rates in the presence of inhibitor to those without inhibitor versus the inhibitor concentration, for the known K_m and substrate concentration into the following expression:

$$\frac{V_o'}{V_o} = \frac{K_m + [S]}{K_m + [S] + K_m [I]}$$

Where V_o' is the rate in the presence of inhibitor

V_o rate in the absence of inhibitor

$[I]$ inhibitor concentration

And $[S]$ is the substrate concentration

And the K_i^* was calculated by fitting to following expression

$$\frac{V_s'}{V_s} = \frac{K_m + [S]}{K_m + [S] + K_m [I]}$$

Where V_s' is the steady-state rate following attainment of equilibrium in the presence inhibitor, and V_s is the steady-state rate in the control having no

inhibitor. These equations describe competitive inhibition where substrate and transition state analogue inhibitor bind in a mutually exclusive manner to the enzyme.

5 **Example 51**

Inhibition of Mouse MTAP *in vivo*

A mouse was fed 200 micrograms of Compound **57**, and samples of blood were taken as a function of time. Cells were lysed and assayed for residual MTAP activity in assay mixtures containing MTA. The assay measures the release of adenine from [2,8-³H]MTA. The results are shown in Figure 2.

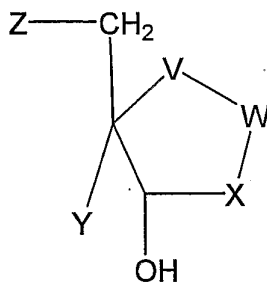
10 Although the invention has been described by way of examples, it should be appreciated the variations or modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. Furthermore, when known equivalents exist to specific features, such equivalents are incorporated as if specifically referred to in the specification.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

20 The present invention relates to compounds that are inhibitors of PNP, PPRT, MTAP, MTAN and/or NH. The compounds are therefore expected to be useful in the treatment of diseases in which the inhibition of PNP, PPRT, MTAP, MTAN and/or NH is desirable. Such diseases include cancer, bacterial infection, protozoal infection or T-cell mediated diseases.

CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):



5

(I)

wherein:

V is selected from CH₂ and NH, and W is selected from NR¹ and NR²; or V is selected from NR¹ and NR², and W is selected from CH₂ and NH;

10

X is selected from CH₂ and CHOH in the R or S-configuration;

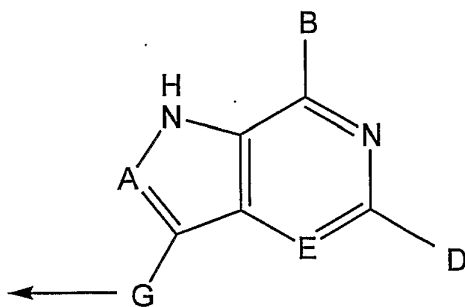
Y is selected from hydrogen, halogen and hydroxy, except where V is selected from NH, NR¹ and NR² then Y is hydrogen;

15

Z is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, SQ, OQ and Q, where Q is an optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group;

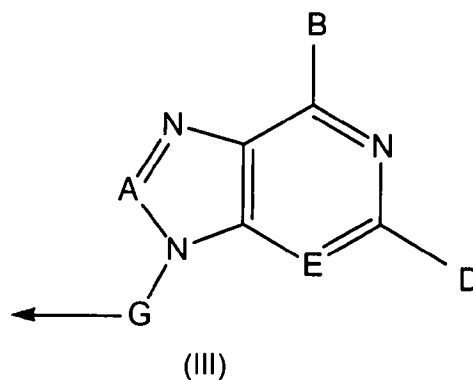
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R¹ is a radical of the formula (II)



(II)

R^2 is a radical of the formula (III)



5

A is selected from N, CH and CR, where R is selected from halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl, OH, NH₂, NHR³, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵, where R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are each optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl groups;

10

B is selected from OH, NH₂, NHR⁶, SH, hydrogen and halogen, where R⁶ is an optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group;

15

D is selected from OH, NH₂, NHR⁷, hydrogen, halogen and SCH₃, where R⁷ is an optionally substituted alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group;

E is selected from N and CH;

20

G is selected from CH₂ and NH, or G is absent, provided that where W is NR¹ or NR² and G is NH then V is CH₂, and provided that where V is NR¹ or NR² and G is NH then W is CH₂;

25

or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 where Z is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, SQ and OQ.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 where V is CH₂.
4. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, where X is CH₂.
- 5
5. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, where G is CH₂.
6. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 where Z is OH.
7. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 where Z is SQ.
- 10
8. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1, 3, 4 or 5 where Z is Q.
9. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, where W is NR¹.
- 15
10. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, where W is NR².
11. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, where W is selected from NH, NR¹ or NR² and X is CH₂.
- 20
12. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 9 where V, X and G are all CH₂, Z is OH and W is NR¹.
13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 or 9 where V, X and G are all CH₂, Z is SQ and W is NR¹.
- 25
14. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13 where Y is hydrogen.
15. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13 where Y is hydroxy.
- 30
16. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 where B is hydroxy.
17. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 where B is NH₂.

18. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17 where A is CH.

19. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17 where A is N.

5 20. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19 where D is H

21. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19 where D is NH₂.

22. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21 where E is N.

10

23. A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is:

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;

15

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-Deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;

(3R,4R)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;

(3R,4R)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;

20

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylethyl)pyrrolidine;

(3S,4R)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxy-4-methylthiomethylpyrrolidine;

25

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;

N-(9-Deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-D-ribitol;

N-(9-deazahypoxanthin-9-yl)methyl-1,4-dideoxy-1,4-imino-D-ribitol;

(3R,4R)-3-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethyl-1-(hypoxanthin-9-yl)pyrrolidine;

30

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(methylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;

(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;

(3R,4S)-1-[(8-aza-9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(benzylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;

(3R,4R)-1-[(9-deazaguanin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4S)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(4-chlorophenylthiomethyl)pyrrolidine;
5 (3R,4R)-1-[(6-chloro-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
(3R,4R)-1-[(6-azido-9-deazapurin-9-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine; or
10 (3R,4R)-1-[(9-deazaadenin-9-yl)methyl]-3-acetoxy-4-(acetoxymethyl)pyrrolidine;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 23.

15 25. A method of treating a disease or condition in which it is desirable to inhibit purine phosphoribosyltransferase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine nucleosidase and/or nucleoside hydrolase comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective
20 amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 23 to a patient requiring treatment.

26. The method of claim 25, where the disease or condition is cancer, bacterial infection, protozoal infection or a T-cell mediated disease.

25 27. The method of claim 26, where the T-cell mediated disease is psoriasis, arthritis or transplant rejection.

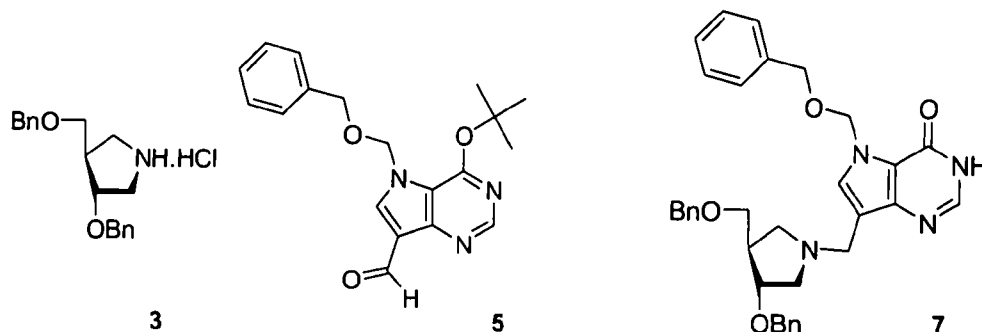
30 28. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 23 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease or condition in which it is desirable to inhibit purine phosphoribosyltransferase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine phosphorylase, 5'-methylthioadenosine nucleosidase and/or nucleoside hydrolase.

5

29. A process for preparing a compound of formula 8 including the steps of:

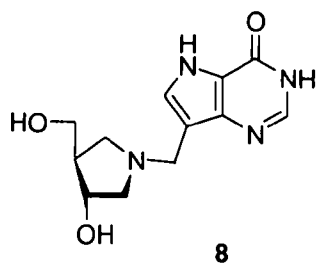
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- (i) coupling an aldehyde of formula 5 with an amine of formula 3 by reductive amination followed by removal of the tert-butyl group under acidic conditions to give a compound of formula 7; and



15

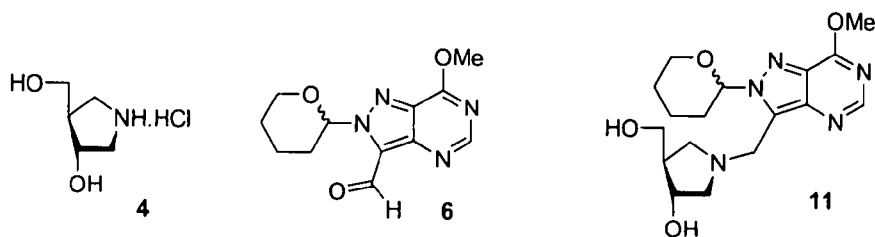
- (ii) deprotection of the compound of formula 7 to give the compound of formula 8



20

30. A process for preparing a compound of formula 12 or formula 13 including the steps of:

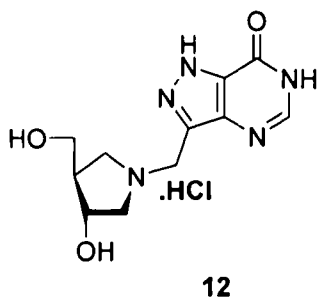
- (i) coupling an aldehyde of formula 6 with an amine of formula 4 by reductive amination to give a compound of formula 11; and



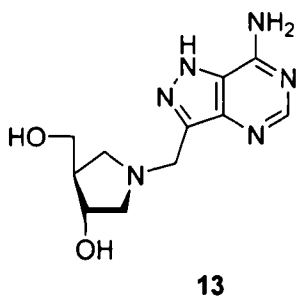
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- (ii) deprotection of the compound of formula 11 to give the compound of formula 12; or

5



- (iii) conversion of the compound of formula 11, in the presence of ammonia, to the compound of formula 13



10

31. A compound as claimed in claim 1, a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 24, a method as claimed in claim 25, or a use as claimed in claim 28, substantially as herein described with reference to any one of examples 1 to 48.8.

Fig 1

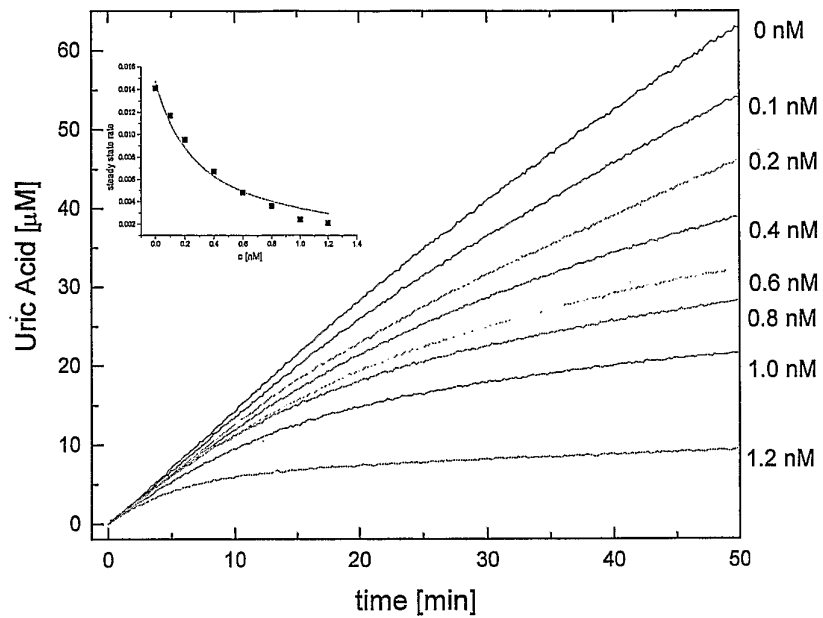


Fig 2

