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Synthesis of the C8-Deoxyguanosine Adduct of the Food Mutagen IQ

Zhiwei Wang and Carmelo J. Rizzo*

Department of Chemistry, Vanderbilt University, VU Station B 351822, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-1822

c.j.rizzo@vanderbilt.edu

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ABSTRACT

The C8-2'-deoxyguanosine adduct of the food mutagen 2-amino-3-methylimadazo[4,5-f]-quinoline (IQ) has been synthesized. The key step is a palladium-catalyzed N-arylation of a suitably protected 8-bromo-2'-deoxygunaosine derivative.

Covalent modification of DNA by electrophiles is the initial step in chemical carcinogenesis. If these modifications are not repaired, they compromise the fidelity of DNA replication, leading to mutations and possibly cancer. Many such electrophiles are generated only after metabolic activation of a procarcinogen. Examples of such procarcinogens include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, vinyl chloride, and arylamines. To properly study the mutagenic effects, structure, and repair of these lesions, strategies for the site-specific incorporation of DNA—carcinogen adducts into oligonucleotides must be developed. The adducted nucleosides are of value as potential building blocks for modified oligonucleotides as well as for analytical standards.

A growing number of mutagenic compounds from cooked meats have been identified.² These compounds are believed to arise from the pyrolysis of amino acids and proteins. One class, shown in Figure 1, possesses a common 2-amino-3-methylimidazole subunit fused to a heteroaromatic ring system. These compounds are highly mutagenic in the Ames *Salmonella* test system. The most potent food mutagens are IQ (2) and MeIQ (3), which are 15 and 24 times more mutagenic than aflatoxin b1, respectively.^{1b} The ultimate

carcinogenic species is an arylnitrenium ion generated by cytochrome P450 oxidation to the corresponding hydroxylamine, followed by esterification and solvolysis. The predominant site of reaction is the C8-position of deoxyguanosine, although N²-adducts have also been isolated as minor products (Figure 2).

Oligonucleotides containing a site-specific C8-dG adduct

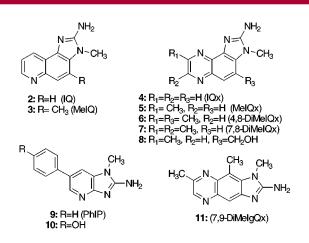


Figure 1. Aminoimidazoazaarene (AIA) food mutagens.

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$$H_3C$$
 H_3C
 H_3C

Figure 2. C8- and N^2 -deoxyguanosine AIA adducts.

of 2-aminofluorene (AF) and its N-acetyl analogue have been prepared, and their structures and mutagenic effects are well studied.3 Recently, PhIP (9) has been site-specifically incorporated into oligonucleotides.⁴ These oligonucleotides were prepared by a biomimetic approach in which N-acetoxy-PhIP was reacted with oligonucleotides containing a single guanosine; Johnson has previously commented on the drawbacks to this synthetic appraoch.3c Overall, the mutagenicity of the C8-PhIP adduct was similar to that of the corresponding AF adduct; however, the mutagenic frequency of PhIP was up to nine times higher depending on sequence. A computational study of an IQ adduct has been recently reported and suggests some structural differences from the corresponding AF adduct.⁵ We report here the synthesis of the C8-2'-deoxyguanosine adduct of the food mutagen IQ (2). The synthesis features a Buchwald-Hartwig⁶ palladiumcatalyzed N-arylation of a suitably protected 8-bromo-2'deoxyguanosine derivative with IQ as the key reaction.

The Buchwald–Hartwig reaction has been used recently for the preparation of nucleoside–carcinogen adducts by Lakshman⁷ and later Johnson, ^{8a} for the preparation of N^6 -2'-deoxyadensosine derivatives. Hopkins and Sigurdsson⁹ and Johnson^{4b–d} synthesized N^2 -dG- N^2 -dG and N^2 -dG- N^6 -dA nitrous acid cross-links as well as other N^2 -dG aryl derivatives via an N-arylation reaction. It is worth noting that Johnson's N-arylation approach involved coupling of the exocyclic amino groups of a suitably protected dA and dG derivative with bromoarenes, while Lakshman and Hopkins and Sigurdsson employed the corresponding bromopurine

with arylamines. To our knowledge, the synthesis of C8-dG adducts of arylamine using a palladium-catalyzed N-arylation reaction has not yet been reported.

Buchwald and others have reported the N-arylation of amides. ¹⁰ Thus, conventional amide protecting groups for N² of dG would be unsatisfactory. Initially, we employed a dimethyl formamidine group which is commonly used for N²-dG protection (Scheme 1). The O⁶-position was protected as a benzyl ether. Attempted palladium-catalyzed N-arylation of 13 with model substrate 14 gave only transfer of the N²-protecting group to the amino group of 14. No N-arylation of the C8-position was observed. The transfer of the formamidine group to other amines has been previously reported. ¹¹

We next examined the tetramethyldisilylazacyclopentane (STABASE) group, a base-stable protecting group for primary amines developed by Magnus. 12 The substrate for the N-arylation reaction (17) was readily prepared from 8-bromo-2'-deoxyguanosine according to Scheme 2. Buchwald-Hartwig reaction of 17 with model amine 14 under the conditions shown in Scheme 1 gave the desired product in 32% yield. We found that the prolonged reaction time led to decomposition of 17. Other mild bases such Cs₂CO₃ or K₃PO₄ gave lower yields. The optimal conditions for the desired reaction involved increasing the catalyst loading to 10 mol % and using lithium hexamethyldisilazide as the base (Scheme 2). Under these conditions a 68% yield of the desired product (18) could be obtained in just 20 min. These conditions were also satisfactory for the coupling of IQ (2) with 17 to give 19 in 68% yield (Scheme 3). Treatment of

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19 with flouride followed by hydrogenolysis of the O⁶-benzyl group gave the desired C8–IQ adduct of dG (1) in 66% overall yield. The synthesis of 1 required six steps from commercially available 8-bromo-2'-deoxyguanosine and proceeded in 32% overall yield. The key to the successful coupling of 17 with 14 or 2 is the use of lithium hexamethyldisilazide (LiHMDS) as the base, which is much stronger than is typically used for the N-arylation reaction. Hartwig has reported the use of lithium amides or amines with LiHMDS in the cross-coupling with bromoarenes in high yield and short reaction times.¹³ It is possible

that LiHMDS is generating an appreciable concentration of the corresponding lithium amide of 14 or 2 which is the reactive substrate.

To examine the generality of this approach for the synthesis of C8-dG arylamine adducts, the N-arylation of 17 with benzylamine, 4-aminobiphenyl, 2-aminofluorene, and 2-naphthylamine was attempted. However, the optimal conditions for the Buchwald-Hartwig reaction of 17 with 14 and 2 shown Schemes 2 and 3 gave largely decomposition with these simple arylamines; less than 10% of the desired product was observed. We concluded that the STABASE group was not satisfactory for the N-arylation of other amines. Protection of the N²-position as a bis-BOC derivative (20) improved the results.¹⁴ The bis-BOC group is sensitive to strong base. When the coupling was attempted with LiHMDS or sodium tert-butoxide, the desired product could be obtained in 30-40% yields as a mixture of di-BOC and mono-BOC protected products. The optimal conditions for N-arylation of 20 are shown in Scheme 4, providing the C8arylamine products (21) in 50–60% yields (Table 1). These conditions were as described by Lakshman for the Narylation of 6-bromopurine. Comparable yields were obtained when 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2'-(N,N-dimethylamino)biphenyl and BINAP were used as the catalyst.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the feasibility of the Buchwald—Hartwig palladium-catalyzed N-arylation reaction

Table 1. N-Arylation of **20** with Mutagenic Arylamines

Ar-NH ₂	Yield of 21
NH ₂	56 %
PH NH2	54 %
NH ₂	61 %
NH ₂	56 %

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for the synthesis of C8-dG amine adducts. Using this method, we synthesized the C8-dG adduct of the food mutagen IQ. In the process, we introduced the use of the STABASE and bis-BOC protecting groups for N^2 of dG. This strategy appears to be general and should be applicable to the synthesis of other C8-dG food mutagen adducts. Work on the conversion of $\bf 1$ into a phosphoramidite reagent suitable for solid-phase oligonucleotide synthesis as well as the synthesis of other C8-adducts of food mutagens is currently underway.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures for the preparation of **1** and copies of all ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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