### **Supporting information**

## Silver(I) Tetrafluoroborate as a Potent Promoter for Chemical Glycosylation

# Sophon Kaeothip, Papapida Pornsuriyasak, and Alexei V. Demchenko\*

## Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Missouri – St. Louis, One University Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63121, USA demchenkoa@umsl.edu

#### Contents:

S-2	General methods
S-3/S-5	Transformation of the STaz moiety into other leaving groups: synthesis of
	glycosyl donors, Synthesis of 1, 3a, 4a, 6, 8-11
S-6/S-9	General Glycosylation Procedures: Synthesis of O-Glycosides and
	Oligosaccharides
S-10/S-11	References
S-12/S-13	Spectra of the trisaccharide 25
S14/S-24	<sup>1</sup> H Spectra of known compounds

**General Methods.** Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (70-230 mesh), reactions were monitored by TLC on Kieselgel 60  $F_{254}$ . The compounds were detected by examination under UV light and by charring with 10% sulfuric acid in methanol. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure at <40 °C. Dichloromethane and 1,2-dichloroethane were distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub> directly prior to application. Methanol was dried by refluxing with magnesium methoxide, distilled and stored under argon. Pyridine was dried by refluxing with CaH<sub>2</sub> and then distilled and stored over molecular sieves (3Å). Molecular sieves (3Å), used for reactions, were crushed and activated *in vacuo* at 390 °C during 8 h in the first instance and then for 2-3 h at 390 °C directly prior to application. AgBF<sub>4</sub> was used as received. Optical rotations were measured at 'Jasco P-1020' polarimeter. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded at 500MHz, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded at 125MHz. HRMS determinations were made with the use of JEOL MStation (JMS-700) Mass Spectrometer.

# <u>Transformation of the STaz moiety into other leaving groups: synthesis of glycosyl</u> <u>donors</u>

**1-O-Acetyl-2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranose (1).** Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (35 mg, 0.156 mmol) was added to a mixture of 2-thiazolinyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-1-thio- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (**5a**, 50 mg, 0.078 mmol) and activated molecular sieves 3Å (150 mg) in dry (ClCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred under argon for 24 h at 55 °C. Upon completion, the solid was filtered-off and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/ hexane gradient elution) to afford 1-O-acetate **1** as colorless syrup in 72% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.6/1$ ). Analytical data for **1** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>1</sup>

**2-Benzoxazolyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-1-thio**- $\beta$ -**D-glucopyranoside (3a).** A mixture of **5a** (50 mg, 0.078 mmol) and activated molecular sieves 3Å (40 mg) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.2 mL) was stirred under argon for 1 h. Freshly prepared solution of Br<sub>2</sub> in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.75 mL, 1/165, v/v) was then added dropwise over the period of 5 min at rt. Quantitative TLC estimates were made based on the accumulation of 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl bromide **2a**. After that, the solvent was evaporated under the reduced pressure at rt. The residue containing crude **2a** was then treated dissolved in dry acetone (0.5 mL) and potassium salt (KSBox,<sup>2</sup> 22 mg, 0.117 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (4 mg, 0.012 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred under argon for 1 h at rt. After that, the mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and washed with water (10 mL), 1% aq. NaOH (10 mL) and water (3 x 10 mL), the organic phase was separated, dried, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford the title compound **3a** as a white foam in 82% yield. Analytical data for **3a** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>2</sup>

**2-Benzothiazolyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-1-thio-β-D-glucopyranoside (4a).** Crude glycosyl bromide **2a** (~48 mg, 0.078 mmol), obtained as described for the synthesis of **3a**, was dissolved in dry acetone (0.5 mL) and potassium salt of 2-mercaptobenzotriazole<sup>3</sup> (24 mg, 0.117 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (4 mg, 0.012 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred under argon for 1 h at rt, then diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL) and washed with water (10 mL), 1% aq. NaOH (10 mL), and water (3 x 10 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford the title compound **4a** as a white foam in 75% yield. Analytical data for **4a** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>4</sup>

Ethyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-1-thio- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (6). A mixture of ethane thiol (17  $\mu$ L, 0.225 mmol) and sodium hydride (1.0 mg, 0.025 mmol) was added to a solution of 2a (~95 mg, 0.15 mmol), prepared as described for the synthesis of 3a, in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL) at 0 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred under argon for 1 h at rt. The reaction mixture was then diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and washed with water (10 mL), 20% aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), and water (3 x 10 mL), the organic phase was separated, dried, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford the title thioglycoside 6 as a white foam in 92% yield. Analytical data for 6 were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>5</sup>

**2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-\alpha-D-glucopyranosyl chloride (8).** To a stirred solution of **5a** (100 mg, 0.15 mmol) and dimethylformamide (6  $\mu$ L, 0.075 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.2 mL) under argon thionyl chloride (34  $\mu$ L, 0.45 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was kept for 1 h and then concentrated under the reduced pressure. The residue was purified by short-path silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford the title compound **8** as a colorless syrup in 84% yield. Analytical data for **8** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>6</sup>

2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranosyl fluoride (9). To a stirred solution of 5a (100 mg, 0.15 mmol) in THF (1.2 mL) diethylaminosulfur trifluoride (DAST, 72  $\mu$ L, 0.55 mmol) was added at -30 °C under argon. The external cooling was then removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at rt. After that, the solution was cooled to -30 °C and methanol (0.1 mL) was added, the resulting mixture was warmed to rt and the volatiles were evaporated off *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and washed successively with water (10 mL), 20% aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), and water (3 x 10 mL). The

organic phase was separated, dried, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by short-path silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford the title fluoride **9** as a white foam in 88% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1/2.8$ ). Analytical data for **9** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>7,8</sup>

**2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranose (10).** A solution of **5a** (65 mg, 0.10 mmol) and Nbromosuccinimide (45 mg, 0.20 mmol) in acetone/water (1.5 mL, 9/1, v/v) was stirred for 16 h at rt. The reaction mixture was then diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and washed with water (10 mL), 20% aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), and water (3 x 10 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford the title hemiacetal **10** as a colorless syrup in 90% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1/1$ ). Analytical data for **10** were essentially the same as for the commercial sample.

**2,3,4,6-Tetra-***O***-benzyl-** $\alpha$ **-D-glucopyranosyl trichloroacetimidate (11).** NaH (8 mg, 0.37 mmol) was added portionwise to a stirred solution of compound **10** (100 mg, 0.185 mmol) and trichloroacetonitrile (85  $\mu$ L, 0.84 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL). After stirring for 3 h at rt, the reaction mixture was concentrated under the reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/ hexane gradient elution) to afford the title compound **11** as a colorless syrup in 82% yield. Analytical data for **11** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>9</sup>

#### **General Glycosylation Procedures: Synthesis of O-Glycosides and Oligosaccharides.**

Method A – Activation with  $AgBF_4$ . (see the article)

Method B – Activation of glycosyl donor **1** with  $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$ . A mixture containing the glycosyl donor (0.11 mmol), glycosyl acceptor (0.10 mmol), and freshly activated molecular sieves (3Å, 200 mg) in (ClCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2mL) was stirred under argon for 1.5 h. BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O (40 µL, 0.33 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at rt. It was then diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the solid was filtered-off and the residue was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined filtrate (30 mL) was washed with 20% aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and water (3 x 10 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford a disaccharide derivative.

Method C- Activation of 1 with  $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O/AgBF_4$ . A mixture of the glycosyl donor (0.11 mmol), glycosyl acceptor (0.10 mmol), and freshly activated molecular sieves (3 Å, 200 mg) in (ClCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) was stirred under argon for 1.5 h.  $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$  (40 µL, 0.33 mmol) and AgBF<sub>4</sub> (10 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 h at rt. Upon completion, it was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the solid was filtered-off and the residue was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined filtrate (30 mL) was washed with 20% aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and water (3 x 10 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/hexane gradient elution) to afford a disaccharide derivative.

Method D - Activation of 6 and 7 with NIS. A mixture of the glycosyl donor (0.11 mmol), glycosyl acceptor (0.10 mmol), and freshly activated molecular sieves (3 Å, 200 mg) in

 $(ClCH_2)_2$  (2 mL) was stirred for 1.5 h under argon. NIS (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at rt. Upon completion, the solid was filtered-off and the residue was washed with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined filtrate (30 mL) was washed with 20% aq. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and water (3 x 10 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/ hexane gradient elution) to afford a disaccharide derivative.

*Method E - Activation of 6 and 7 with NIS/AgBF*<sub>4</sub>. A mixture of the glycosyl donor (0.11 mmol), glycosyl acceptor (0.10 mmol), and freshly activated molecular sieves (3 Å, 200 mg) in (ClCH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) was stirred for 1.5 h under argon. NIS (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) and AgBF<sub>4</sub> (10 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10-20 min at rt. Upon completion, the solid was filtered-off and the residue was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined filtrate (30 mL) was washed with 20% aq. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and water (3 x 10 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/ hexane gradient elution) to afford a disaccharide derivative.

**Pent-4-en-1-yl** 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-1-thio- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (7). The title compound was synthesized from glycosyl bromide 2a, obtained as described for the synthesis of 3a, and 4-penten-1-ol by Method A in 89% yield as a white foam. Analytical data for 7 were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>10</sup>

Methyl 4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranosyl)-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -Dglucopyranoside (16a). The title compound was obtained by Method A from 8 and 12<sup>11</sup> in 91% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1/3.4$ ) or **11** and **12** in 65% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1/5.4$ ). Analytical data for **16a** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>12</sup>

Methyl 6-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-benzyl-D-glucopyranosyl)-2,3,4-tri-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside (17a). The title compound was obtained by Method A from glycosyl donors 2a, 3a, 5a, 8, 9 or 11 and glycosyl acceptor 13<sup>13</sup> in 92% ( $\alpha/\beta = 2.4/1$ ), 89% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.2/1$ ), 95% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.3/1$ ), 97% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.6/1$ ), 81% ( $\alpha/\beta = 2/1$ ) or 80% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.5/1$ ) yield, respectively. In addition, the title compound was obtained by Method B from 1 and 13 in 91% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.4/1$ ), by Method C - from 1 and 13 in 95% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 2/1$ ), by Method D - from 6 or 7 and 13 in 91% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.2/1$ ) or 89% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.1/1$ ), and by Method E - from 6 or 7 and 13 in 92% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.2/1$ ), respectively. Analytical data for 17a were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>14</sup>

Methyl 2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzoyl-β-D-glucopyranosyl)-3,4,6-tri-O-benzyl-α-Dglucopyranoside (17b). The title compound was obtained by Method A from 2b and 14<sup>15</sup> in 99% yield. Analytical data for 17b were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>16</sup>

Methyl 6-O-(3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranosyl)-2,3,4-tri-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside (17c). The title compound was obtained by Method A from 3c or 5c and 13 in 91% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.6/1$ ) or 75% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.2/1$ ), respectively. Analytical data for 17c were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>17</sup>

Methyl2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranosyl)-3,4,6-tri-O-benzyl-α-D-glucopyranoside (18a). The title compound was obtained by Method A from 5a and 14 in

92% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.4/1$ ). Analytical data for **18a** were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>17</sup>

Methyl 2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzoyl-β-D-glucopyranosyl)-3,4,6-tri-O-benzyl-α-Dglucopyranoside (18b). This compound was obtained by Method A from 2b and 14 in 82% yield. Analytical data for 19a were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>17</sup>

Methyl 2-O-benzyl-3-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranosyl)-4,6-O-benzylidene-  $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside (19a). This compound was obtained by Method A from 4a or 9 and 15 <sup>18</sup> in 87% ( $\alpha/\beta = 7.4/1$ ) or 81% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 2.3/1$ ), respectively. Analytical data for 19a were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>19</sup>

Pent-4-en-1-yl 3-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-D-glucopyranosyl)-4,6-O-benzylidene-2deoxy-2-(2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbamoyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (21). This compound was obtained by Method A from 3a, 4a, 5a, or 9 and 20<sup>20</sup> in 86% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.1/1$ ), 85% ( $\alpha/\beta =$ 3.3/1), 83% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1/1.2$ ), or 65% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.6/1$ ), respectively. Analytical data for 21 were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>17</sup>

Ethyl 6-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-D-glycopyranosyl)-2,3,4-tri-O-benzyl-1-thio- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (23). This compound was obtained by Method A from 2a, 3a, 5a, 8 or 9 and 22<sup>21</sup> in 84% ( $\alpha/\beta = 1.6/1$ ), 87% ( $\alpha/\beta = 2/1$ ), 89% ( $\alpha/\beta = 2.4/1$ ), 84% ( $\alpha/\beta = 2.2/1$ ) or 83% yield ( $\alpha/\beta = 2.4/1$ ), respectively. Analytical data for 23 were essentially the same as reported previously.<sup>22</sup>

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