SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Steric Restrictions of RISC in RNA Interference Identified with Size-Expanded RNA Nucleobases

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251 A TGGAAGACGC CAAAAACATA 301 AAGAAAGGCC CGGCGCCATT CTATCCGCTG GAAGATGGAA CCGCTGGAGA 351 GCAACTGCAT AAGGCTATGA AGAGATACGC CCTGGTTCCT GGAACAATTG CTTTTACAGA TGCACATATC GAGGTGGACA TCACTTACGC TGAGTACTTC 401 451 GAAATGTCCG TTCGGTTGGC AGAAGCTATG AAACGATATG GGCTGAATAC AAATCACAGA ATCGTCGTAT GCAGTGAAAA CTCTCTTCAA TTCTTTATGC 501 551 CGGTGTTGGG CGCGTTATTT ATCGGAGTTG CAGTTGCGCC CGCGAACGAC 601 ATTTATAATG AACGTGAATT GCTCAACAGT ATGGGCATTT CGCAGCCTAC CGTGGTGTTC GTTTCCAAAA AGGGGTTGCA AAAAATTTTG AACGTGCAAA 651 AAAAGCTCCC AATCATCCAA AAAATTATTA TCATGGATTC TAAAACGGAT 701 751 TACCAGGGAT TTCAGTCGAT GTACACGTTC GTCACATCTC ATCTACCTCC CGGTTTTAAT GAATACGATT TTGTGCCAGA GTCCTTCGAT AGGGACAAGA 801 CAATTGCACT GATCATGAAC TCCTCTGGAT CTACTGGTCT GCCTAAAGGT 851 GTCGCTCTGC CTCATAGAAC TGCCTGCGTG AGATTCTCGC ATGCCAGAGA 901 TCCTATTTTT GGCAATCAAA TCATTCCGGA TACTGCGATT TTAAGTGTTG 951 1001 TTCCATTCCA TCACGGTTTT GGAATGTTTA CTACACTCGG ATATTTGATA 1051 TGTGGATTTC GAGTCGTCTT AATGTATAGA TTTGAAGAAG AGCTGTTTCT GAGGAGCCTT CAGGATTACA AGATTCAAAG TGCGCTGCTG GTGCCAACCC 1101 1151 TATTCTCCTT CTTCGCCAAA AGCACTCTGA TTGACAAATA CGATTTATCT 1201 AATTTACACG AAATTGCTTC TGGTGGCGCT CCCCTCTCTA AGGAAGTCGG GGAAGCGGTT GCCAAGAGGT TCCATCTGCC AGGTATCAGG CAAGGATATG 1251 GGCTCACTGA GACTACATCA GCTATTCTGA TTACACCCGA GGGGGATGAT 1301 AAACCGGGCG CGGTCGGTAA AGTTGTTCCA TTTTTTGAAG CGAAGGTTGT 1351 GGATCTGGAT ACCGGGAAAA CGCTGGGCGT TAATCAAAGA GGCGAACTGT 1401 1451 GTGTGAGAGG TCCTATGATT ATGTCCGGTT ATGTAAACAA TCCGGAAGCG 1501 ACCAACGCCT TGATTGACAA GGATGGATGG CTACATTCTG GAGACATAGC 1551 TTACTGGGAC GAAGACGAAC ACTTCTTCAT CGTTGACCGC CTGAAGTCTC 1601 TGATTAAGTA CAAAGGCTAT CAGGTGGCTC CCGCTGAATT GGAATCCATC 1651 TTGCTCCAAC ACCCCAACAT CTTCGACGCA GGTGTCGCAG GTCTTCCCGA CGATGACGCC GGTGAACTTC CCGCCGCCGT TGTTGTTTTG GAGCACGGAA 1701 AGACGATGAC GGAAAAAGAG ATCGTGGATT ACGTCGCCAG TCAAGTAACA 1751 1801 ACCGCGAAAA AGTTGCGCGG AGGAGTTGTG TTTGTGGACG AAGTACCGAA 1851 AGGTCTTACC GGAAAACTCG ACGCAAGAAA AATCAGAGAG ATCCTCATAA 1901 AGGCCAAGAA GGGCGGAAAG ATCGCCGTGT AA

Figure S1. Gene sequence of firefly luciferase *luc*+ (pGL3 control vector - Promega); nucleotides 280-1932. The 19-mer sequence used to design the antisense strand of the siRNA duplex used in RNAi activity experiments can be found between nucleotides 1203-1221 (underlined, bold-faced and highlighted).

Strand	Sequence	Expected MW	Observed MW	(M ⁻¹ .cm ⁻¹)
AS-00	5'-AGAAGCAAUUUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6697.948	6697.422	222,200
AS-01	5'- <u>A</u> GAAGCAAUUUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6747.966	225,100
AS-03	5'-AG <mark>A</mark> AGCAAUUUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6747.962	225,100
AS-04	5'-AGA <mark>A</mark> GCAAUUUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6748.278	225,100
AS-07	5'-AGAAGC <mark>A</mark> AUUUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6748.351	225,100
AS-08	5'-AGAAGCA <mark>A</mark> UUUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6748.358	225,100
AS-09	5'-AGAAGCAA <mark>U</mark> UUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6748.614	213,200
AS-10	5'-AGAAGCAAU <mark>U</mark> UCGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6748.238	213,200
AS-11	5'-AGAAGCAAUU <mark>U</mark> CGUGUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6751.651	213,200
AS-14	5'-AGAAGCAAUUUCG <mark>U</mark> GUAAATT-3'	6747.964	6748.367	213,200
AS-16	5'-AGAAGCAAUUUCGUG <mark>U</mark> AAATT-3'	6747.964	6747.856	213,200
AS-17	5'-AGAAGCAAUUUCGUGU <mark>A</mark> AATT-3'	6747.964	6747.538	225,100
AS-18	5'-AGAAGCAAUUUCGUGUA <mark>A</mark> ATT-3'	6747.964	6748.060	225,100
AS-19	5'-AGAAGCAAUUUCGUGUAA <mark>A</mark> TT-3'	6747.964	6747.889	225,100
AS-xA3	5'-AGAAGCAAUUUCGUGUAAATT-3'	6847.995	6847.112	230,900
AS-xU3	5'-AGAAGCAA <mark>UUU</mark> CGUGUAAATT-3'	6847.995	6847.865	195,200
SS-U	5'-UUUACACGAAAUUGCUUCUTT-3'	6548.854	6547.617	203,000
SS-A	5'-UUUACACGAAAUUGCUUCATT-3'	6571.881	6571.755	207,500
SS-xU	5'-UUUACACGAAAUUGCUUC <mark>U</mark> TT-3'	6598.870	6597.295	194,000
SS-xA	5'-UUUACACGAAAUUGCUUC <mark>A</mark> TT-3'	6621.897	6620.700	210,400

Table S1. MALDI mass spectrometry data and calculated molar extinction coefficient values at 260 nm (ε_{260}) of synthesized siRNA strands. xRNA substitutions are displayed as bold and underlined nucleotides. Expected and observed molecular weights (MW) are shown. See Methods section in manuscript for ε_{260} calculation protocol.

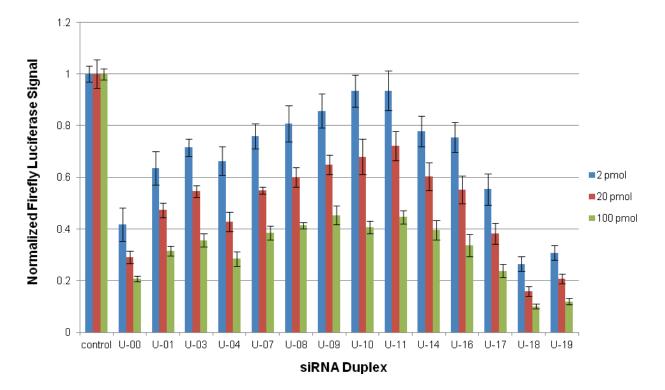


Figure S2. Normalized RNAi activity data set for siR-U series. U-00 corresponds to the unmodified siRNA duplex. Data are averages and s.d. of three independent experiments. HeLa cells were co-transfected with 2 pmol (3.33 nM), 20 pmol (33.3 nM) or 100 pmol (166 nM) of siRNA duplex. Decreased firefly luciferase signal indicates enhanced RNAi activity. Control groups contain HeLa cells treated with luciferase plasmids in the absence of siRNA.

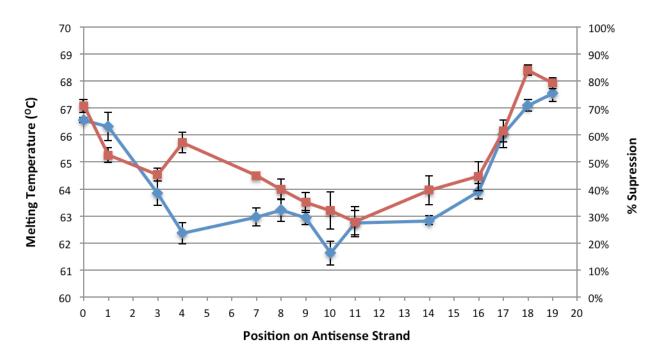
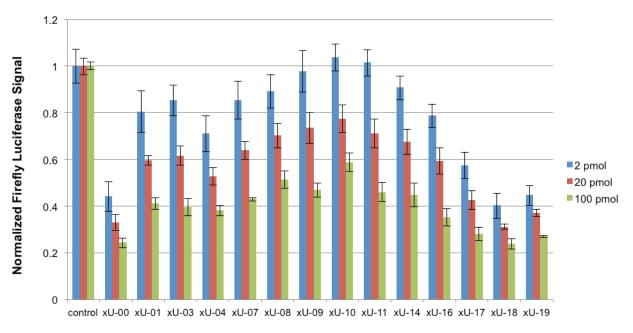
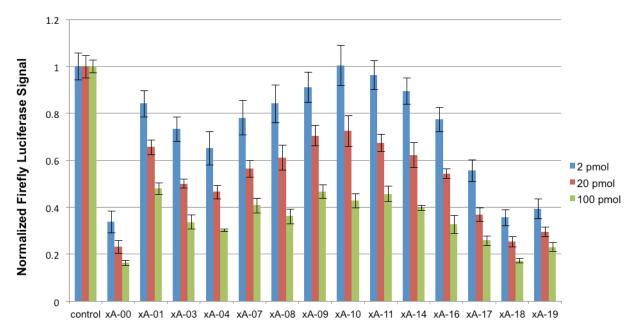


Figure S3. Plot of RNAi activity (red) and melting temperature (T_m , blue) for siR-U series. Data taken from Supplemental Figure S2 at 20 pmol siRNA (33.3 nM) and Figure 2C, respectively. Activity data was inverted and plotted as % suppression. Increased % suppression indicates enhanced RNAi activity. Data for siR-U-00 is shown at position 0. T_m error $< \pm 0.5$ °C.



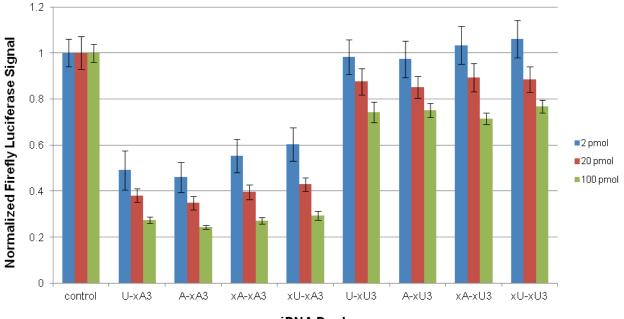
siRNA Duplex

Figure S4. Normalized RNAi activity data set for siR-xU series. xU-00 corresponds to an siRNA duplex containing the unmodified antisense strand, AS-00. Data are averages and s.d. of three independent experiments. HeLa cells were co-transfected with 2 pmol (3.33 nM), 20 pmol (33.3 nM) or 100 pmol (166 nM) of siRNA duplex. Decreased firefly luciferase signal indicates enhanced RNAi activity. Control groups contain HeLa cells treated with luciferase plasmids in the absence of siRNA.



siRNA Duplex

Figure S5. Normalized RNAi activity data set for siR-xA series. xA-00 corresponds to an siRNA duplex containing the unmodified antisense strand, AS-00. Data are averages and s.d. of three independent experiments. HeLa cells were co-transfected with 2 pmol (3.33 nM), 20 pmol (33.3 nM) or 100 pmol (166 nM) of siRNA duplex. Decreased firefly luciferase signal indicates enhanced RNAi activity. Control groups contain HeLa cells treated with luciferase plasmids in the absence of siRNA.



siRNA Duplex

Figure S6. Normalized RNAi activity data set for si-xA3 and siR-xU3 series. Data are averages and s.d. of three independent experiments. HeLa cells were co-transfected with 2 pmol (3.33 nM), 20 pmol (33.3 nM) or 100 pmol (166 nM) of siRNA duplex. Decreased firefly luciferase signal indicates enhanced RNAi activity. Control groups contain HeLa cells treated with luciferase plasmids in the absence of siRNA.

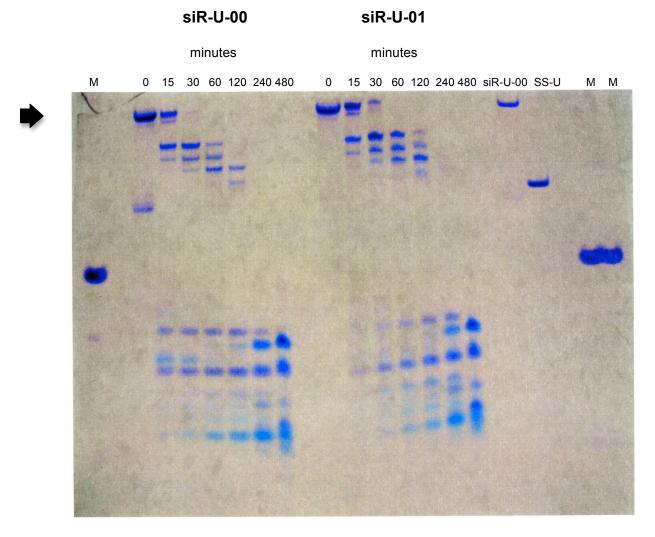


Figure S7. Serum stability data for siR-U-00 and siR-U-01 showing digestion of fully intact siRNA duplexes (black arrow) on a native PAGE gel (visualized by Stains-All staining). Samples of siR-U-00 and SS-U (both in the absence of human serum) were added to the gel to act as standardized markers indicating positions of fully intact siRNA and 21-nt oligoribonucleotide, respectively. "M" represents the marker dye bromophenol blue. Duplex analog sequences shown below (xRNA substitution shown in bold).

AS-00	<u>siR-U-00</u>	AS-01	<u>siR-U-01</u>
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	
5'- AGAAGCAAUUUCGUGUAAATT	-3' (antisense)	5'- A GAAGCAAUUUCGUGUAAATT -3'	(antisense)
3 ' - TTUCUUCGUUAAAGCACAUUU 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	-5' (sense)	3'- TTUCUUCGUUAAAGCACAUUU -5' 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	(sense)
SS-U		SS-U	

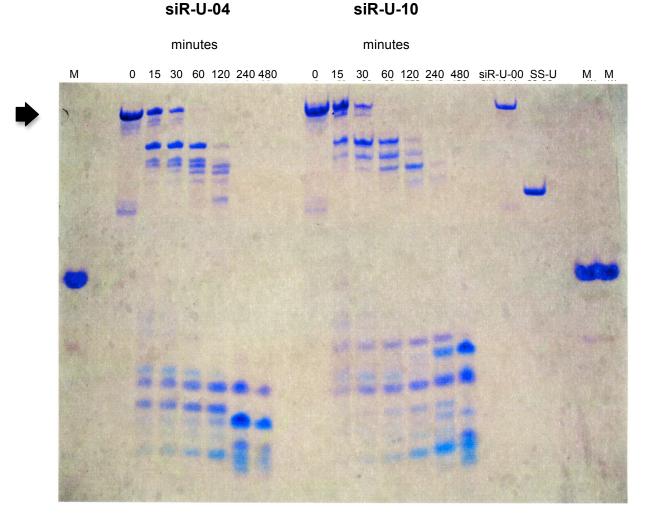
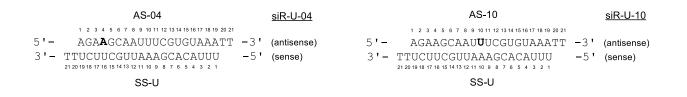


Figure S8. Serum stability data for siR-U-04 and siR-U-10 showing digestion of fully intact siRNA duplexes (black arrow) on a native PAGE gel (visualized by Stains-All staining). Samples of siR-U-00 and SS-U (both in the absence of human serum) were added to the gel to act as standardized markers indicating positions of fully intact siRNA and 21-nt oligoribonucleotide, respectively. "M" represents the marker dye bromophenol blue. Duplex analog sequences shown below (xRNA substitutions shown in bold).



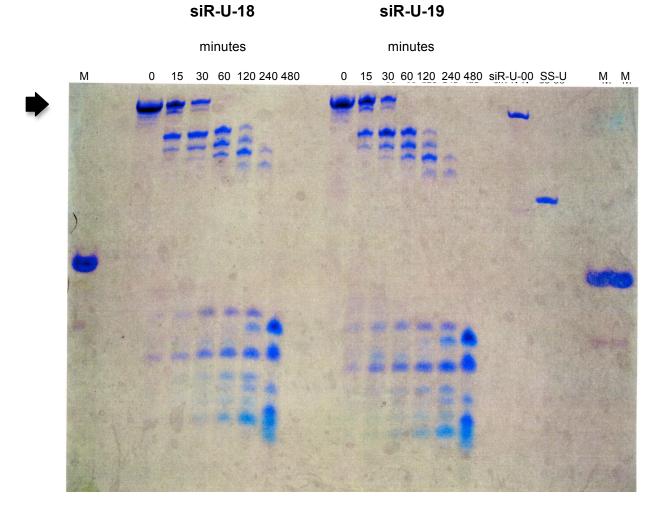
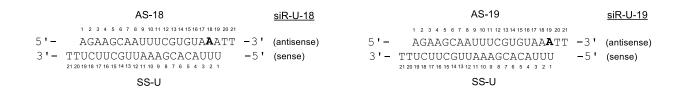


Figure S9. Serum stability data for siR-U-18 and siR-U-19 showing digestion of fully intact siRNA duplexes (black arrow) on a native PAGE gel (visualized by Stains-All staining). Samples of siR-U-00 and SS-U (both in the absence of human serum) were added to the gel to act as standardized markers indicating positions of fully intact siRNA and 21-nt oligoribonucleotide, respectively. "M" represents the marker dye bromophenol blue. Duplex analog sequences shown below (xRNA substitutions shown in bold).



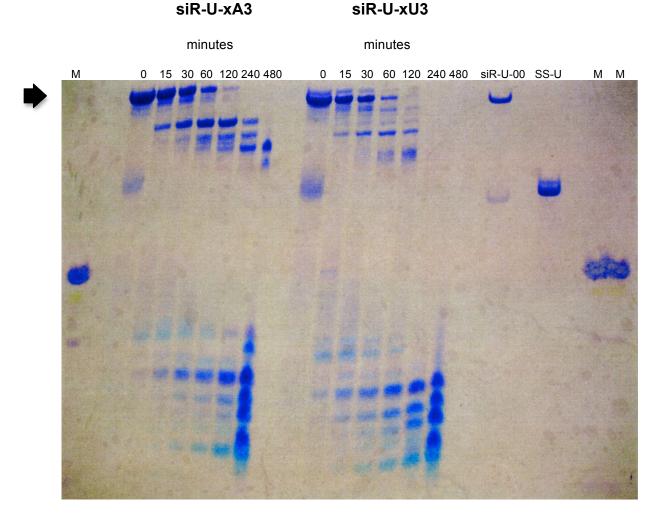


Figure S10. Serum stability data for siR-U-xA3 and siR-U-xU3 showing digestion of fully intact siRNA duplexes (black arrow) on a native PAGE gel (visualized by Stains-All staining). Samples of siR-U-00 and SS-U (both in the absence of human serum) were added to the gel to act as standardized markers indicating positions of fully intact siRNA and 21-nt oligoribonucleotide, respectively. "M" represents the marker dye bromophenol blue. Duplex analog sequences shown below (xRNA substitutions shown in bold).



Materials and Methods

Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry argon. Anhydrous solvents were purchased from Acros. Reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and were used as received without further purification. ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, gCOSY and gHMBC NMR spectra were taken on a 400 MHz Varian Mercury, 500 MHz Varian Inova or 600 MHz Varian Inova spectrophotometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. Ribose and nucleobase proton assignments were made using gCOSY data. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was performed at the Stanford University Mass Spectrometry Facility and were analyzed by LC/ESI-MS on a Waters Acquity UPLC and Thermo Fisher Exactive mass spectrometer.

8-Amino-3-[3',5'-*O***-(di-***tert***-butylsilylene)-***β***-D-ribofuranosyl]-3***H***-imidazo[4,5-g]quinazoline (1.28 g, 4.03 mmol) (1)¹ in 40 mL anhy. DMF stirring in ice bath, di-***tert***-butylsilyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (1.44 mL, 4.43 mmol) was added drop wise and allowed to stir in cold for 30 min., then 15 min. at r.t. Triethylamine (1.69 mL, 12.1 mmol) was then added to the reaction and reaction mixture was allowed to stir for an additional 15 min. Crude product was evaporated** *in vacuo* **and purified by silica column chromatography (5% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give 2** (1.57 g, 85%) as a pale yellow waxy solid. ¹H NMR (acetone-d₆, 400 MHz): δ 8.66 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.58 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.55 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.97 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.29 (s br, 2H, ArNH₂), 6.02 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.69-4.64 (m, 1H, H(2')), 4.56-4.51 (m, 1H, H(4')), 4.44-4.39 (m, 1H, H(3')), 4.35-4.24 (m, 2H, H_{ab}(5')), 3.77 (s br, 1H, H(2'OH)), 1.10 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(<u>CH₃)₃)₂</u>). ¹³C NMR (acetone-d₆, 100 MHz): δ 167.49, 152.24, 147.48, 140.04, 130.94, 129.40, 123.74, 118.75, 116.20, 96.57, 80.17, 79.24, 76.96, 69.01, 27.25, 27.07, 26.93, 25.51, 22.32, 20.03. HRMS (M + H) calculated for C₂₂H₃₂O₄N₅Si: 458.2223; found: 458.2207.

8-Amino-3-[2'-O-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)-3',5'-O-(di-tert-butylsilylene)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-3H-

imidazo[4,5-g]quinazoline (3). To a solution of dried **2** (810 mg, 1.77 mmol) in 35 mL anhy. pyridine stirring at r.t., imidazole (1.80 g, 26.5 mmol) was added, followed by *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (4 g, 26.5 mmol) after imidazole had completely dissolved. A precipitate formed in the reaction mixture about 5 min. after adding TBDMSCl. After stirring overnight at r.t., reaction mixture was evaporated to a syrup, then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂. Organic mixture was washed with dH₂O followed by brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated *in vacuo*. Crude product was purified by silica column chromatography (3% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give **3** (890 mg, 88%) as a pale yellow foamy solid. ¹H NMR (acetone-d₆, 400 MHz): δ 8.59 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.54 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.41 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.88 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.11 (s br, 2H, ArNH₂), 6.21 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.84-4.81 (m, 1H, H(2')), 4.54-4.44 (m, 2H, H(3'), H(4')), 4.26-4.17 (m, 2H, H_{ab}(5')), 1.12 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(CH₃)₃)₂), 1.09 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(CH₃)₃)₂), 0.95 (s, 9H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), 0.17 (s, 3H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), 0.16 (s, 3H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)); ¹³C NMR (acetone-d₆, 100 MHz): δ 166.99, 157.41, 154.23, 147.82, 145.94, 143.70, 138.03, 118.34, 116.50, 105.85, 93.17, 76.87, 75.64, 74.72, 67.69, 40.69, 34.58, 27.43, 27.27, 26.92, 25.73, 22.60, 20.34, 19.98, 18.31, -4.49, -5.43. HRMS (M + H) calculated for C₂₈H₄₆O₄N₅Si₂: 572.3088; found: 572.3074.

3-[2'-O-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)-3',5'-O-(di-tert-butylsilylene)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-8-N-

(dimethylacet-amido)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-g]quinazoline (4). To a solution of dried 3 (1.68 g, 2.94 mmol) in 30 mL anhy. methanol stirring at r.t., *N*,*N*-dimethylacetamide dimethyl acetal (5.16 mL, 35.3 mmol) was added. After stirring at r.t. for 12 h, reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo*. Crude product was purified by silica column chromatography (1% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give 4 (1.70 g, 90%) as a pale yellow foam. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.77 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.64 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.11 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.77 (s, 1H, ArH), 5.93 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.51-4.45 (m, 1H, H(4')), 4.41-4.38 (m, 1H, H(2')), 4.23-4.12 (m, 2H, H_a(5'), H(3')), 4.06-4.00 (m, 1H, H_b(5')), 3.22 (s br, 3H, ArN=C(CH₃)N(CH₃)₂), 3.12 (s br, 3H, ArN=C(CH₃)N(CH₃)₂), 2.20 (s, 3H, ArN=C(CH₃)N(CH₃)₂), 1.03 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(CH₃)₃)₂), 1.00

(s, 9H, $R_2Si(C(CH_3)_3)_2$), 0.87 (s, 9H, $OSi(CH_3)_2(C(CH_3)_3)$), 0.067 (s, 6H, $OSi(CH_3)_2(C(CH_3)_3)$); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 167.33, 161.33, 154.56, 146.93, 144.48, 143.14, 136.92, 118.49, 117.17, 105.64, 93.12, 76.58, 75.34, 74.30, 67.57, 38.39, 38.14, 27.34, 26.89, 25.72, 22.64, 20.26, 20.24, 18.10, 16.65, -4.22, -5.08. HRMS (M + H) calculated for $C_{32}H_{53}O_4N_6Si_2$: 641.5467; found: 641.3653.

3-[2'-O-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-8-N-(dimethylacetamido)-3H-imidazo[4,5-g]

quinazoline (5). To an oven-dried round-bottom flask purged with argon, a solution of 1.6 mL HFpyridine in 1.8 mL anhy, pyridine was *carefully* made and allowed to stir in ice bath. A solution of dried 4 (1.52 g, 2.38 mmol) in 35 mL anhy. THF was prepared and allowed to stir at 0° C. Diluted HF-pyridine solution was *carefully* added to the latter solution drop wise and was allowed to stir at r.t. for 15 min., then diluted with 8 ml of pyridine followed by CH₂Cl₂. Organic mixture was washed with 5% aq. NaHCO₃ followed by brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated *in vacuo*. Crude product was purified silica column chromatography (4% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give 5 (1.52 g, 87%) as a pale yellow foam. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz); § 8,72 (s. 1H, ArH), 8,63 (s. 1H, ArH), 8,38 (s. 1H, ArH), 8,33 (s. 1H, ArH), 5.92 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.77 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H, H(2')), 4.43-4.38 (m, 1H, H(3')), 4.34-4.30 (m, 1H, H(4')), 4.09 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H_a(5')), 3.95 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H_b(5')), 3.26 (s 3H, $ArN=C(CH_3)N(CH_3)_2$, 3.16 (s br, 3H, $ArN=C(CH_3)N(CH_3)_2$), 2.24 (s, 3H, br. $ArN=C(CH_3)N(CH_3)_2$, 0.75 (s, 9H, $OSi(CH_3)_2(C(CH_3)_3)$), -0.22 (s, 3H, $OSi(CH_3)_2(C(CH_3)_3)$), -0.43 (s, 3H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 167.86, 162.12, 154.27, 146.73, 143.81, 137.39, 118.57, 117.12, 107.38, 90.32, 86.06, 75.05, 71.79, 62.24, 38.63, 25.78, 18.09, 17.19, -5.10, -5.12. HRMS (M + H) calculated for $C_{24}H_{37}O_4N_6Si$: 501.2645; found: 501.2631.

3-[2'-O-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-8-N-

(dimethylacetamido)-3H-imidazo[4,5-g]quinazoline (6). To a solution of dried 5 (1.17 g, 2.34 mmol) and DMAP (57.2 mg, 0.468 mmol) in 45 mL anhy. pyridine, 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride (2.38 g, 7.02 mmol) was added in one portion and allowed to stir at r.t. At 12 h, TLC indicated that reaction was complete. Reaction mixture was quenched with 0.5 mL methanol and evaporated *in vacuo* to form a gum. Residue was dissolved in EtOAc and washed with 5% aq. NaHCO₃, followed by water and brine. Crude product in organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , evaporated in vacuo and purified by silica column chromatography (0 - 3% methanol in CH_2Cl_2) to give 6 (1.57 g, 86%) as a pale yellow foam. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 8 8.78 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.68 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.39 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.89 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.47-7.17 (m, 9H, ArH), 6.86-6.76 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.02 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.72 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H(2'), 4.35-4.31 (m, 1H, H(4')), 4.30-4.26 (m, 1H, H(3')), 3.76 (s, 6H, $R(ArOCH_3)_2$), 3.53 (dd, J = 8.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H, $H_a(5^{\circ})$), 3.44 (dd, J = 7.4, 3.5 Hz, 1H, $H_b(5^{\circ})$), 3.28 (s br, 3H, ArN=C(CH₃)N(CH₃)₂), 3.18 (s br, 3H, ArN=C(CH₃)N(CH₃)₂), 2.93 (s br, 1H, OH(3')), 2.28 (s, 3H, ArN=C(CH₃)N(CH₃)₂), 0.79 (s, 9H, $OSi(CH_3)_2(C(CH_3)_3)), -0.14$ (s, 3H, $OSi(CH_3)_2(C(CH_3)_3)), -0.33$ (s, 3H, $OSi(CH_3)_2(C(CH_3)_3)); ^{-13}C$ NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 8 158.50, 153.77, 146.51, 144.84, 144.37, 143.05, 137.92, 135.29, 129.99, 129.97, 127.92, 126.93, 118.25, 117.07, 113.21, 105.20, 88.55, 86.76, 84.22, 71.76, 63.63, 55.12, 38.54, 25.43, 17.76, 16.89, -5.25, -5.43. HRMS (M + H) calculated for $C_{45}H_{55}O_6N_6Si$: 803.3952; found: 803.3933.

3-[2'-O-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)-3'-O-(2-cyanoethyl-N,N-diisopropylphosphino)-5'-O-(4,4'-

dimethoxytrityl)- β -D-ribofuranosyl]-8-*N*-(dimethylacetamido)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-g]quinazoline (7). To a solution of 6 (100 mg, 0.125 mmol), 1-methylimidazole (8 µL, 0.100 mmol) and *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (76 µL, 0.438 mmol) in 5 mL anhy. CH₂Cl₂ stirring at 0°C, 2-cyanoethyl *N*,*N*-diisopropylcholorophosphoramidite (34 µL, 0.150 mmol) was added drop wise and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at r.t. while monitored by TLC. At 6 h, the reaction was complete by TLC and the mixture was quenched with 5% aq. NaHCO₃. Organic layer was dried under MgSO₄ and evaporated *in vacuo*. Crude product was purified by silica column chromatography (0 - 2% methanol in CH₂Cl₂ with 1% Et₃N) to give 7 (109 mg, 87%) as a pale yellow foam. ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 162 MHz): δ 152.880, 149.550. HRMS (M + H) calculated for C₅₄H₇₂N₈O₇SiP: 1003.4953; found: 1003.5052.

8-[3',5'-O-(di-*tert***-butylsilylene)-***β***-D-ribofuranosyl]-quinazoline-2,4**(1*H,3H*)-dione (9). To a solution of dried 8-(*β*-D-ribofuranosyl)-quinazoline-2,4(1*H,3H*)-dione (443 mg, 1.50 mmol) (8)¹ in 10 mL anhy. DMF stirring in ice bath, di-*tert*-butylsilyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (535 µL, 1.65 mmol) was added drop wise and allowed to stir in cold for 30 min., then 15 min. at r.t. Triethylamine (0.63 mL, 4.5 mmol) was then added to the mixture and reaction was allowed to stir for an additional 15 min. Crude product was evaporated *in vacuo* and purified by silica column chromatography (5% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give **9** (464 mg, 71%) as a pale yellow waxy solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz): δ 9.93 (s br, 1H ArNH), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.74 (s br, 1H, OH(2')), 5.24 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.46-4.42 (m, 1H, H(3')), 4.10-4.01 (m, 3H, H(2'), H(4'), H₄(5')), 3.81-3.76 (m, 1H, H_b(5')), 0.97 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(<u>CH₃)₃)</u>₂), 0.95 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(<u>CH₃)₃)</u>₂); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 100 MHz): δ 162.63, 150.25, 137.22, 131.53, 126.55, 126.11, 122.27, 114.93, 82.88, 76.67, 73.63, 67.37, 27.34, 27.24, 27.03, 26.77, 22.26, 20.08. HRMS (M + H) calculated for C₂₁H₃₁O₆N₂Si: 435.1951; found: 435.1940.

8-[2'-O-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)-3',5'-O-(di-tert-butylsilylene)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-quinazoline-

2,4(1*H,3H***)-dione (10).** To a solution of dried **9** (435 mg, 1.00 mmol) in 10 mL anhy. pyridine stirring at r.t., imidazole (1.02 g, 15.0 mmol) was added, followed by *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (2.26 g, 15.0 mmol) after imidazole had completely dissolved. A precipitate formed in the reaction mixture about 5 min. after adding TBDMSC1. After stirring overnight at r.t., reaction mixture was evaporated to a syrup, then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂. Organic mixture was washed with dH₂O followed by brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated *in vacuo*. Crude product was purified by silica column chromatography (0 - 2% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give **10** (490 mg, 89%) as a pale yellow foamy solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.98 (s br, 1H, ArNH), 9.31, (s br, 1H, ArNH), 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.13 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.55-4.50 (m, 1H, H(4')), 4.40-4.37 (m, 1H, H(2')), 4.12-4.07 (m, 1H, H_a(5')), 4.04-3.98 (m, 1H, H_b(5')), 3.91-3.86 (m, 1H, H(3')), 1.04 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(CH₃)₃)₂), 1.03 (s, 9H, R₂Si(C(CH₃)₃)₂), 0.91 (s, 9H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), 0.12 (s, 3H, OSi(<u>CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), 0.087 (s, 3H, OSi(<u>CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃));</u> ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 162.92, 149.88, 138.09, 132.30, 128.20, 123.80, 122.80, 115.73, 88.78, 77.47, 75.86, 74.98, 67.63, 27.40, 26.98, 25.82, 25.60, 22.62, 20.25, 18.09, 17.91, -3.68, -3.95, -5.07. HRMS (M + H) calculated for C₂₇H₄₅O₆N₂Si₁₂: 549.2816; found: 549.2811.</u>

8-[2'-O-(*tert***-butyldimethylsilyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-quinazoline-2,4(1***H***,3***H***)-dione (11). To an ovendried round-bottom flask purged with argon, a solution of 0.63 mL HF-pyridine in 0.72 mL anhy. pyridine was** *carefully* **made and allowed to stir in an ice bath. A solution of dried 10** (500 mg, 0.911 mmol) in 15 mL of anhydrous THF was prepared and allowed to stir at 0°C. Diluted HF-pyridine solution was *carefully* added to the latter solution drop wise and was allowed to stir at r.t. for 15 min., then diluted with 3 ml of pyridine followed by CH₂Cl₂. Organic mixture was washed with 5% aq. NaHCO₃ followed by brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated *in vacuo*. Crude product was purified on silica column chromatography (3% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give **11** (319 mg, 86%) as a pale yellow foam. ¹H NMR (acetone-d₆, 400 MHz): δ 10.58 (s br, 1H, ArNH), 10.45 (s br, 1H, ArNH), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 4.92 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.43-4.39 (m, 1H, H(2')), 4.28-4.35 (m, 1H, H(3')), 4.23-4.21 (m, 1H, H(4')), 3.97-3.93 (m, 2H, H_{ab}(5')), 3.78 (s br, 1H, OH(3')), 0.78 (s, 9H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), -0.15 (s, 3H, OSi(<u>CH₃</u>)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), -0.34 (s, 3H, OSi(<u>CH₃</u>)₂(C(CH₃)₃)); ¹³C NMR (acetone-d₆, 100 MHz): δ 163.49, 150.94, 139.93, 136.94, 128.59, 124.89, 122.78, 116.54, 87.55, 84.51, 76.44, 73.81, 62.64, 18.51, -5.19, -5.36. HRMS (M + H) calculated for C₁₉H₂₉O₆N₂Si: 409.1795; found: 409.1789.

8-[2'-O-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-quinazoline-

2,4(1*H*,3*H*)-dione (12). To a solution of dried 11 (300 mg, 0.734 mmol) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butylpyrdine (810 μ L, 3.64 mmol) in 10 mL anhy. CH₃CN, silver nitrate (125 mg, 0.734 mmol) was added in one portion and allowed to stir at r.t. until fully dissolved. To this mixture, 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride (300 mg, 0.881 mmol) was added in one portion and allowed to stir at r.t. for 20 min. Mixture was then filtered into 5 mL of 5% aq. NaHCO₃ and partitioned with CH₂Cl₂. Organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄

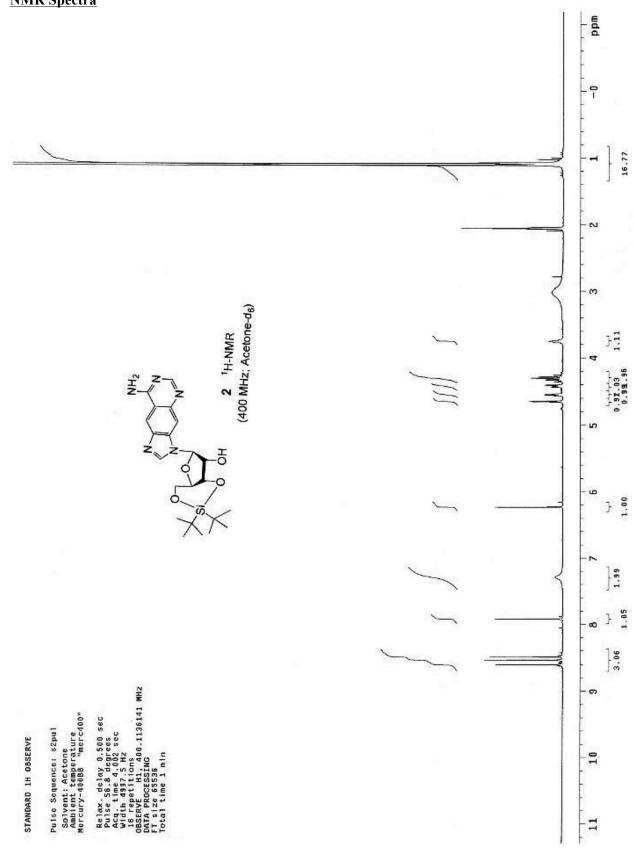
and evaporated *in vacuo*. Crude product was purified by silica column chromatography (0 - 2 % methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give **12** (428 mg, 82%) as a pale yellow foam. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.49 (s br, 1H, ArNH), 9.11 (s br, 1H, ArNH), 8.16 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.46-7.16 (m, 9H, ArH), 6.84-6.78 (m, 4H, ArH), 5.06 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, H(1')), 4.35-4.30 (m, 1H, H(2')), 4.29-4.26 (m, 1H, H(4')), 4.02-3.98 (m, 1H, H(3')), 3.78 (s, 6H, R(ArOCH₃)₂), 3.63 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.6 Hz, 1H, H_a(5')), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H, H_b(5')), 2.93 (s br, 1H, OH(3')), 0.83 (s, 9H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), -0.10 (s, 3H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)), -0.18 (s, 3H, OSi(CH₃)₂(C(CH₃)₃)); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 162.76, 158.52, 149.37, 144.57, 138.31, 135.58, 135.39, 133.55, 130.13, 130.15, 128.04, 127.80, 126.85, 124.00, 122.85, 115.21, 113.12, 86.72, 85.63, 79.81, 78.01, 76.67, 72.75, 63.42, 55.18, 25.57, 17.91, -5.22, -5.25. HRMS (M + Na) calculated for C₄₀H₄₆O₈N₂NaSi: 733.2921; found: 733.2907.

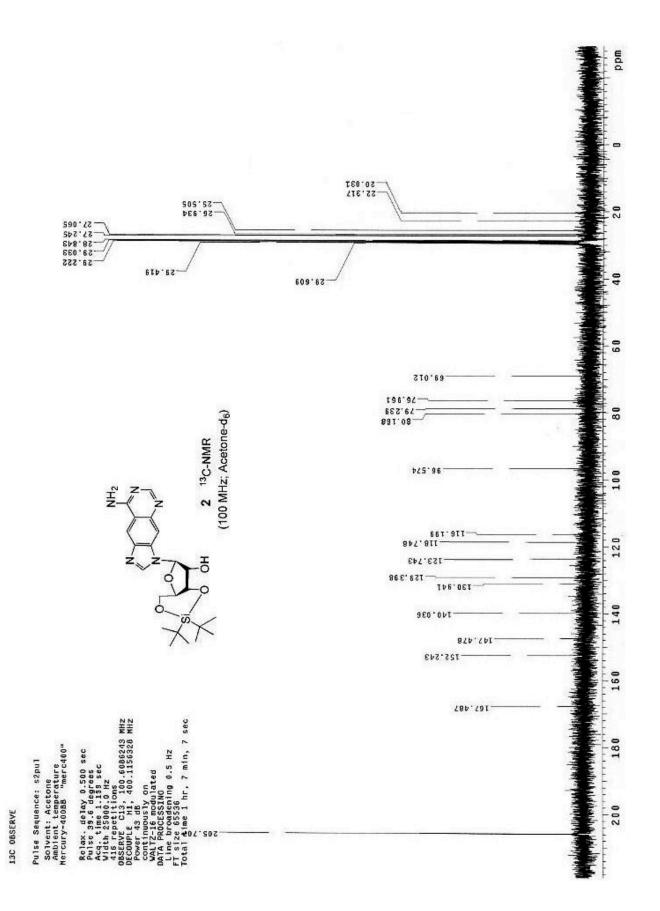
8-[2'-O-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)-3'-O-(2-cyanoethyl-N,N-diisopropylphosphino)-5'-O-(4,4'-

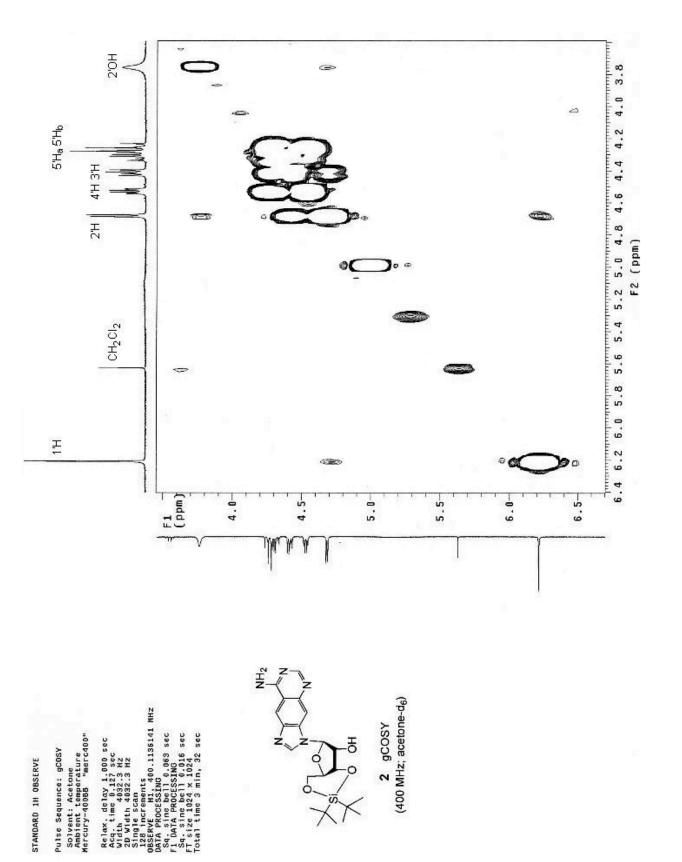
dimethoxytrityl)-\beta-D-ribofuranosyl]-quinazoline-2,4(1*H***,3***H***)-dione (13). To a solution of dried 12 (125 mg, 0.176 mmol) in 5 mL anhy. CH₃CN, pyridinium trifluoroacetate (37.5 mg, 0.194 mmol) was added in one portion and allowed to stir at r.t. until fully dissolved. To this solution, 2-cyanoethyl** *N***,***N***,***N***',***N***'-tetraisopropylphosphordiamidite (84 µL, 0.264 mmol) was added drop wise and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at r.t. while monitored by TLC. At 18 h, the reaction was complete by TLC and the mixture was evaporated** *in vacuo***. Crude product was purified by silica column chromatography (4:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate with 1% Et₃N) to give 13** (148 mg, 92%) as a white foam. ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 162 MHz): δ 151.651, 147.736. HRMS (M + Na) calculated for C₄₉H₆₃N₄O₉NaSiP, 933.3994; found: 933.4014.

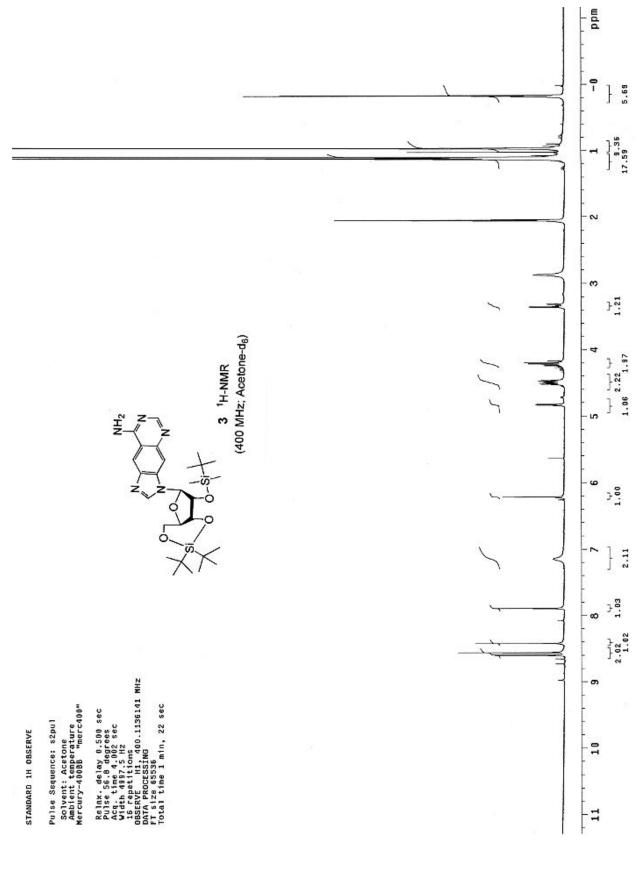
References

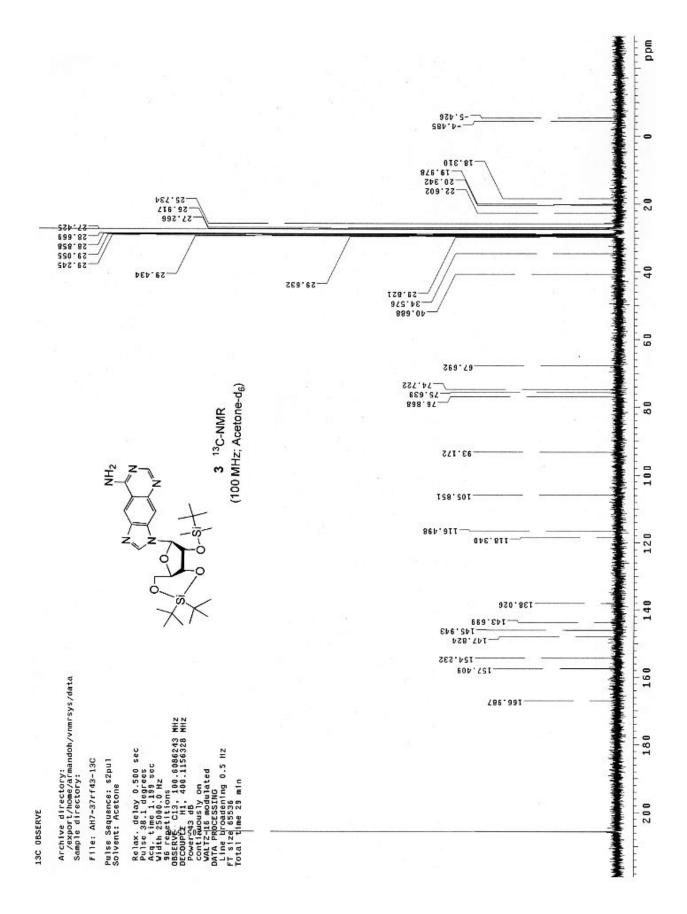
(1) Hernández, A. R. and Kool, E. T. (2011) The components of xRNA: Synthesis and fluorescence of a full genetic set of size-expanded ribonucleosides, *Org. Lett.* 13, 676-679.

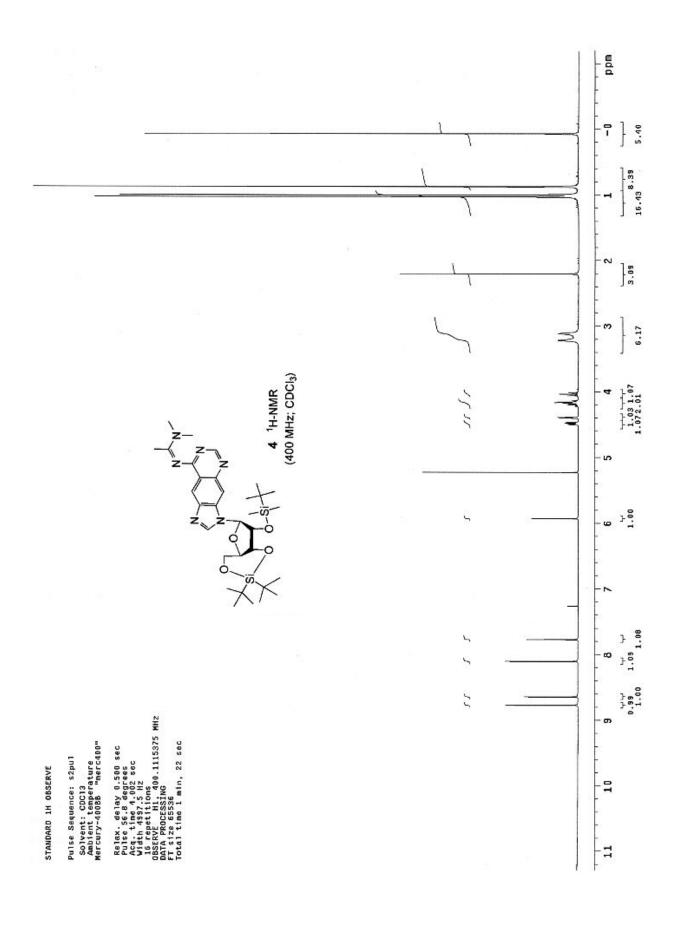


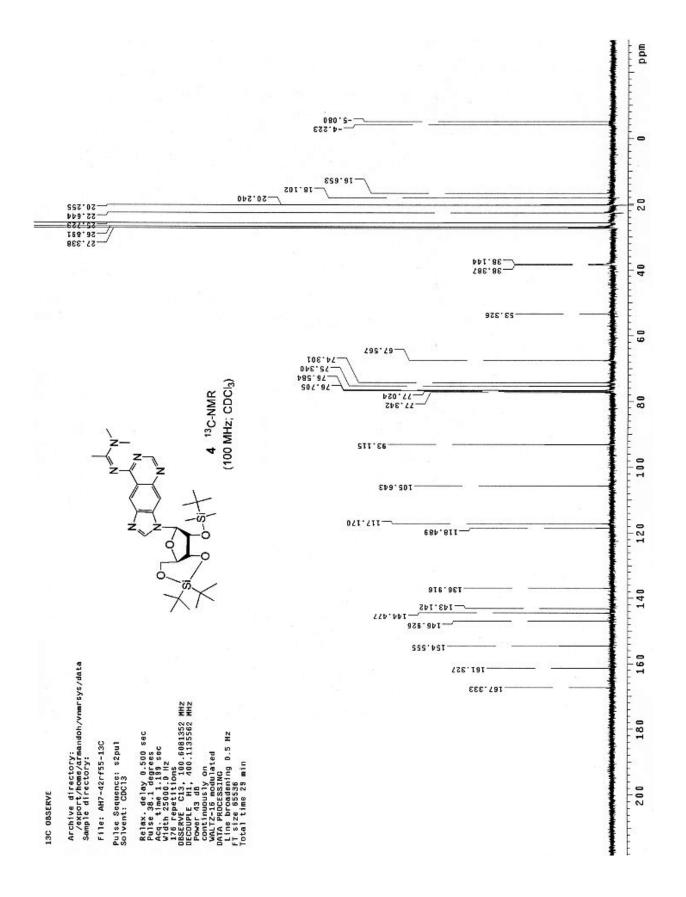


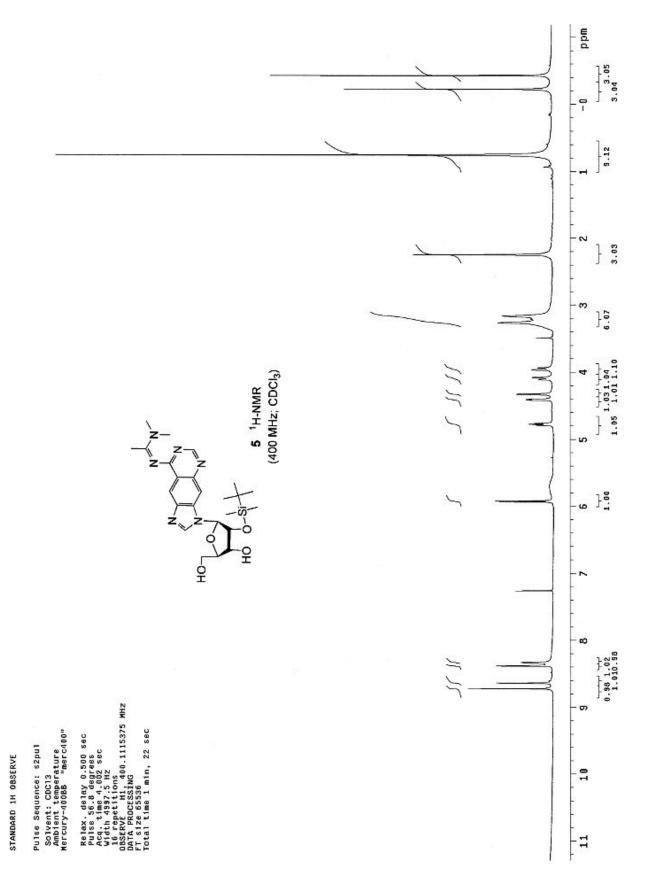


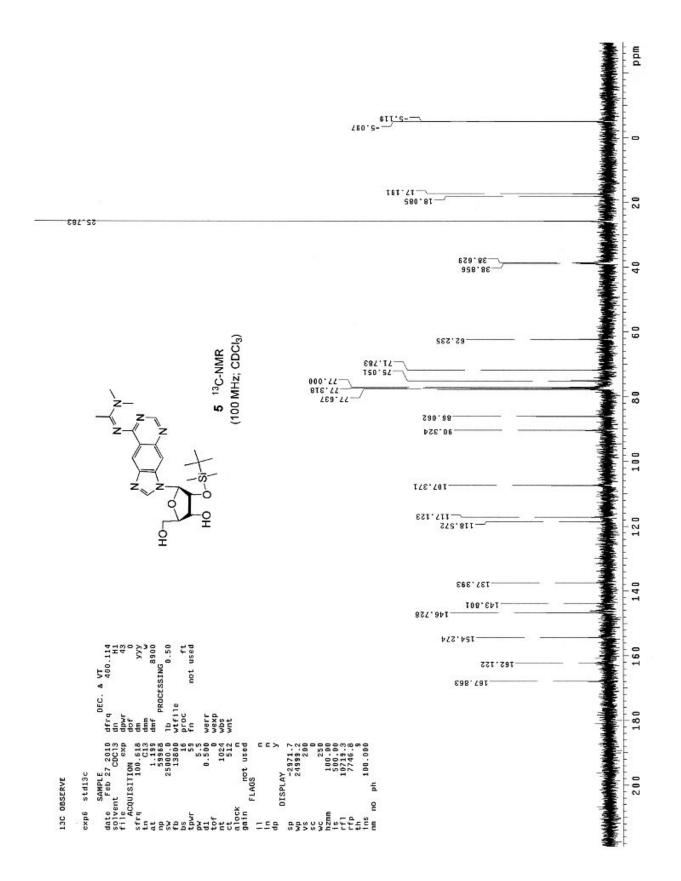


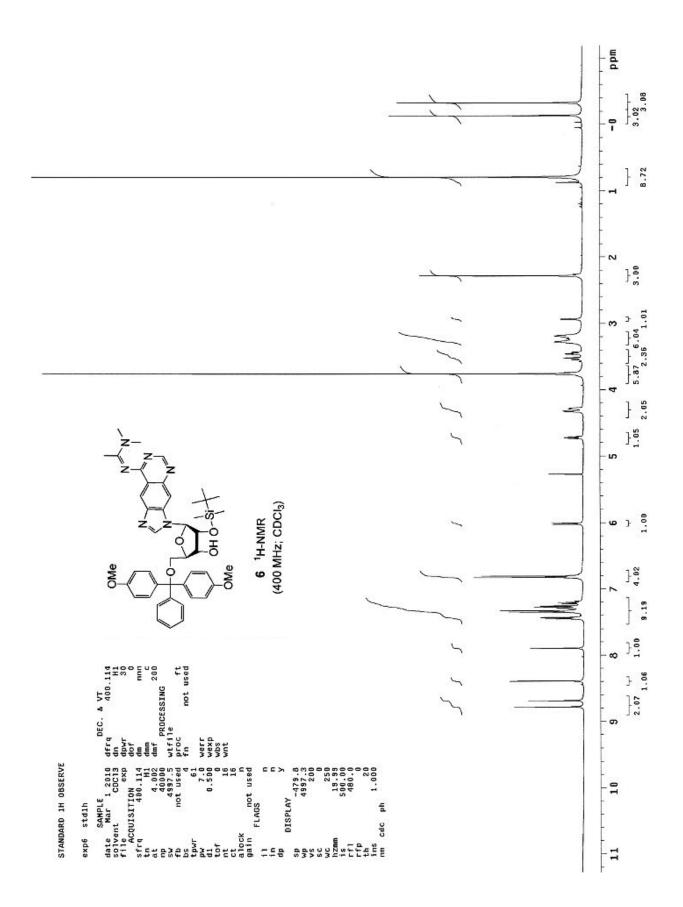


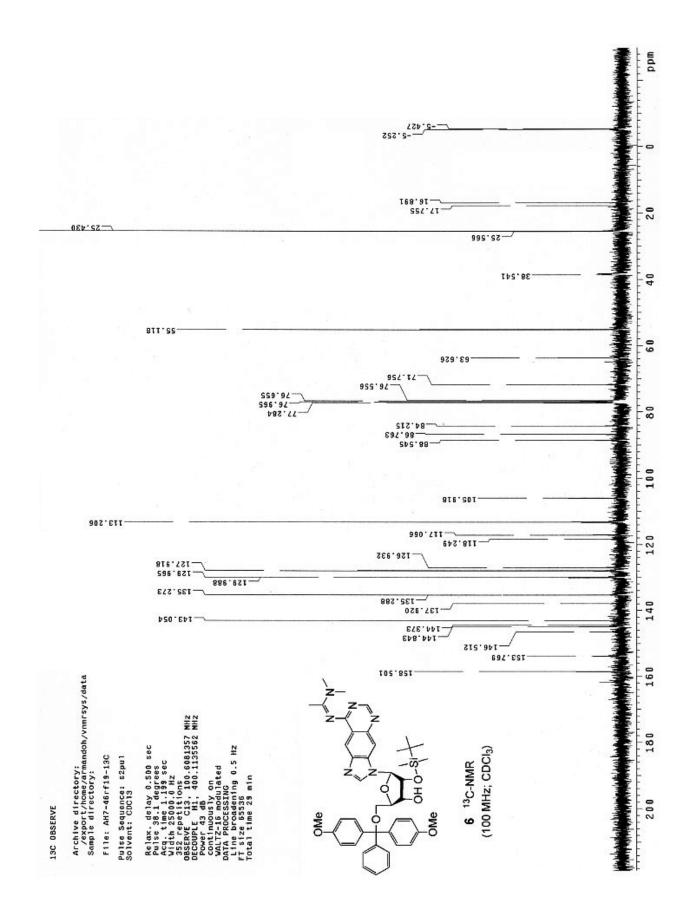


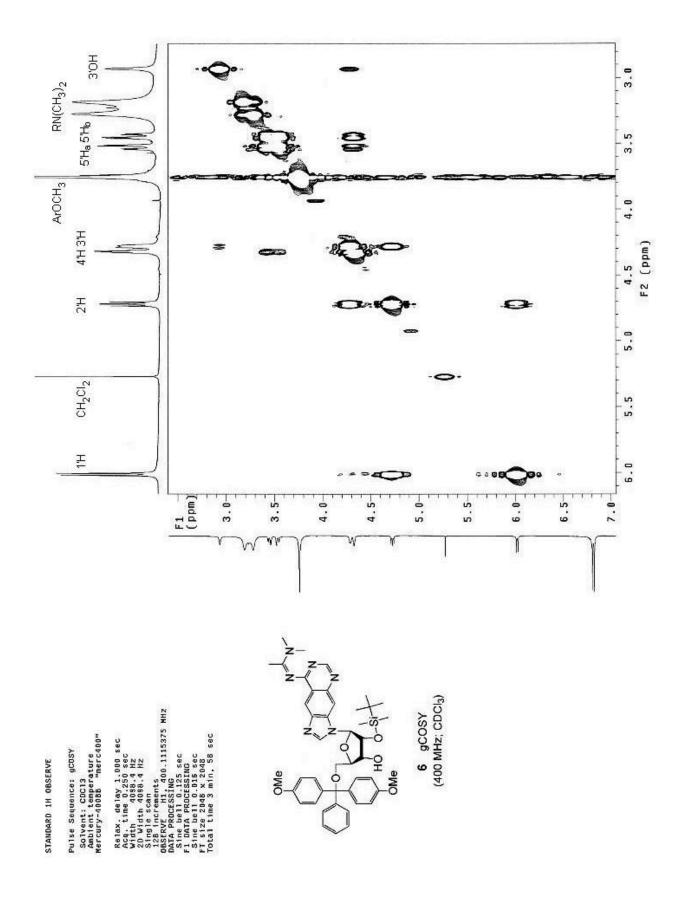


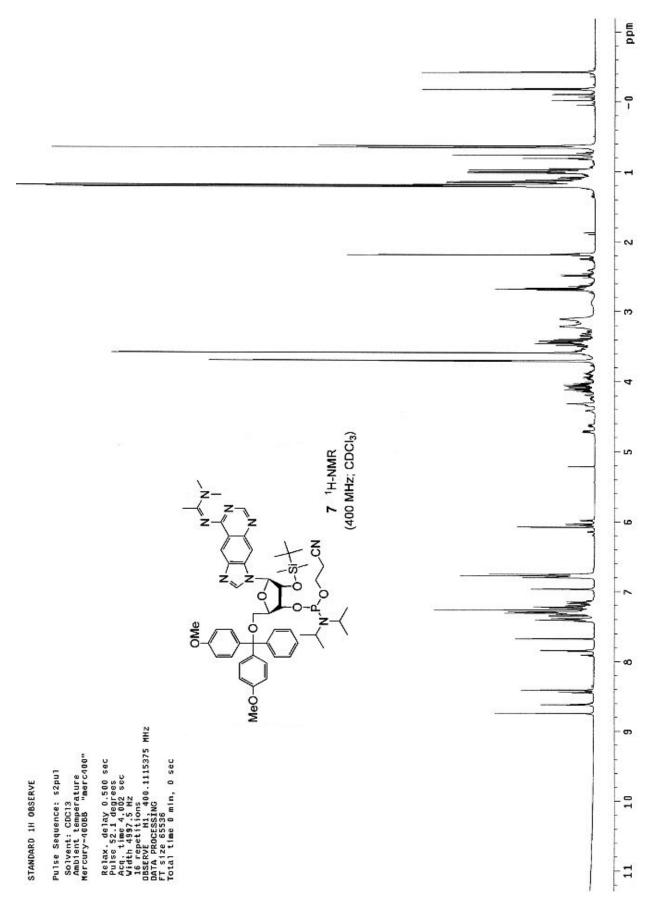


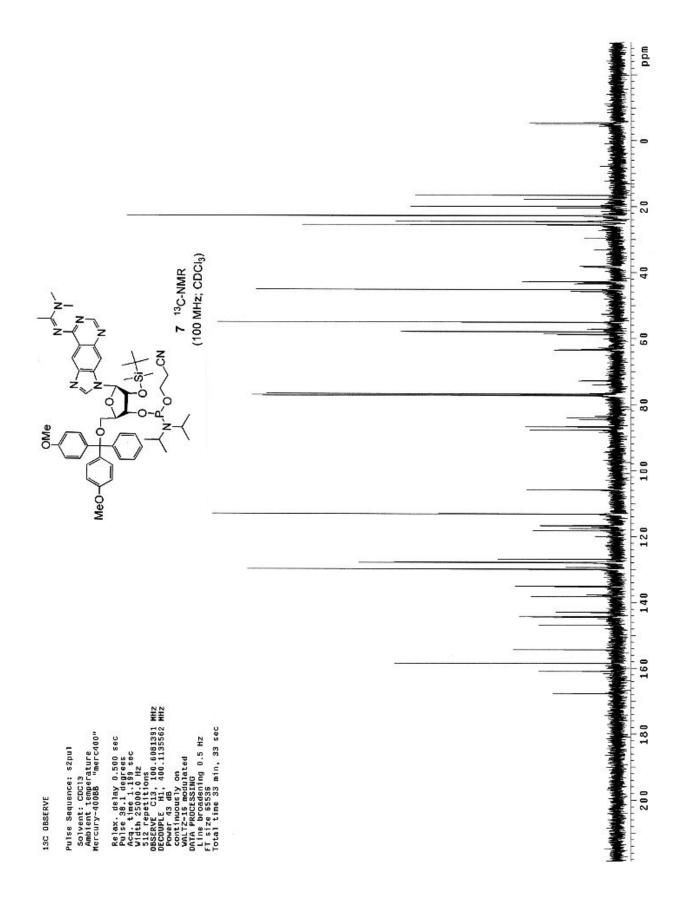


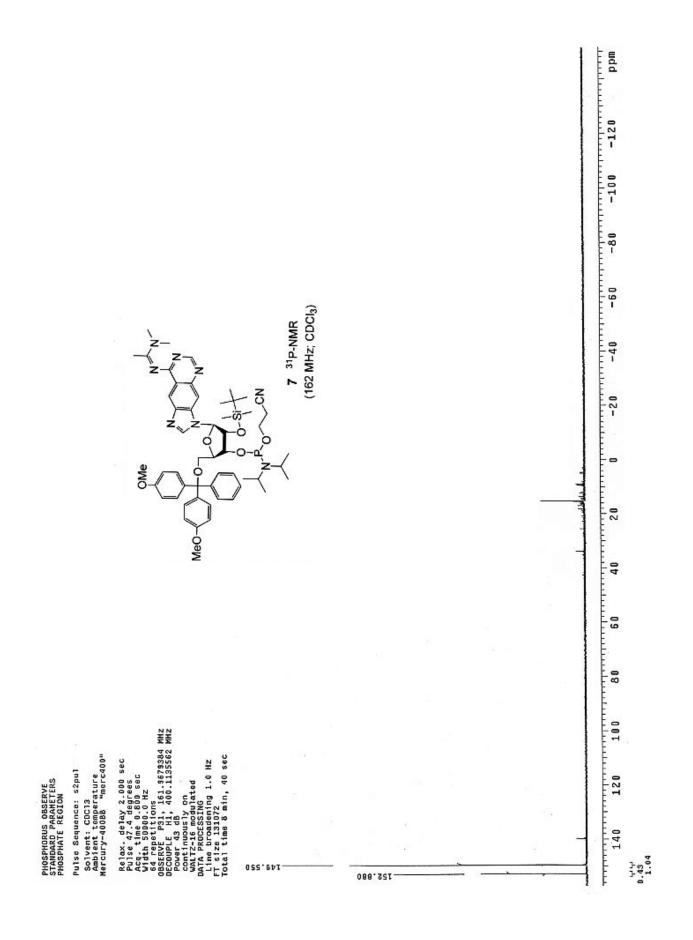


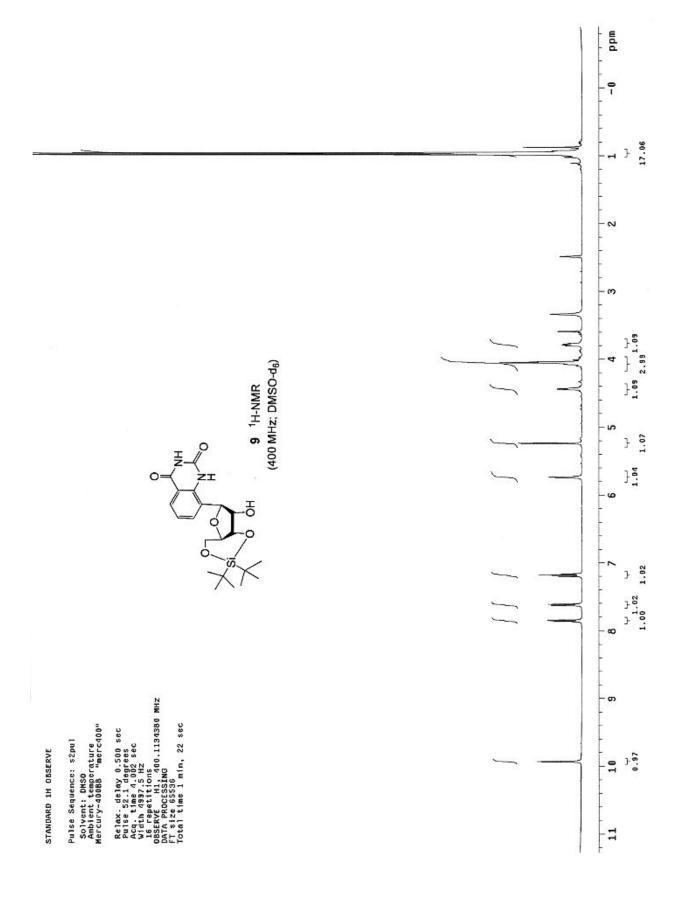


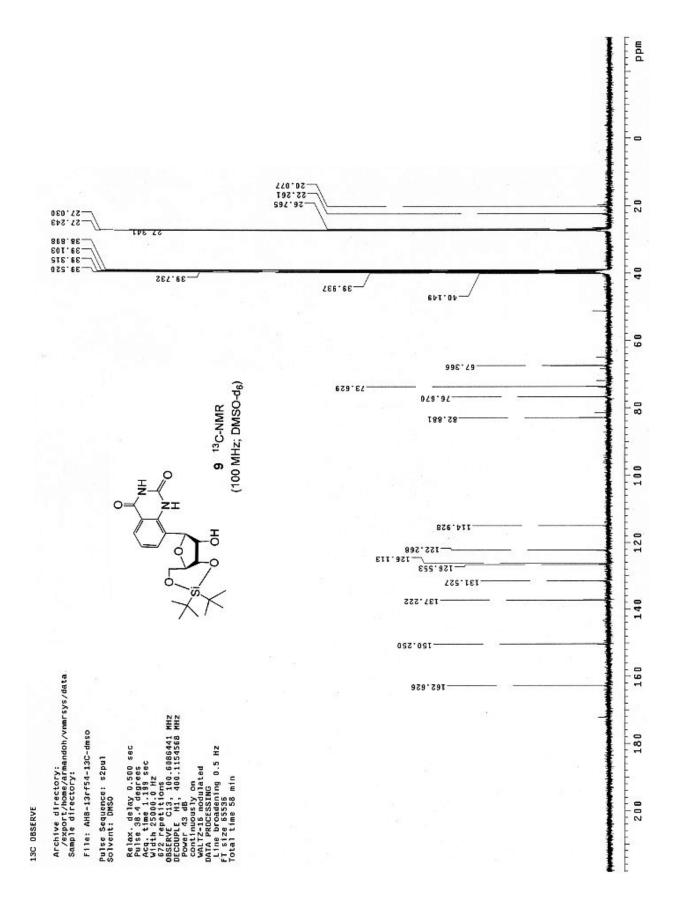




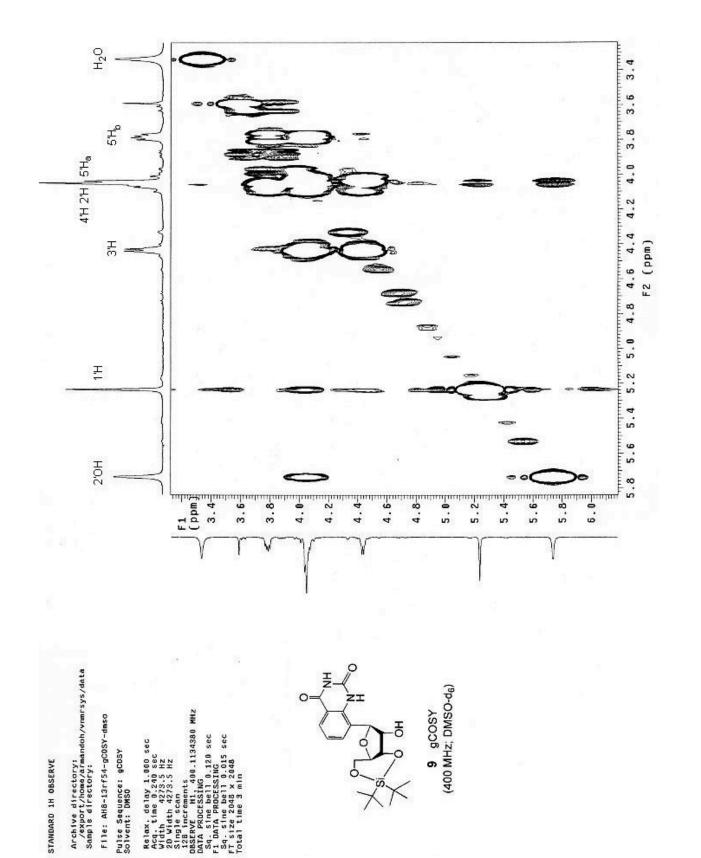












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