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To cite this article: Christiane Chbib, Adam J. Sobczak, Mukesh Mudgal, Cesar Gonzalez, Daniel Lumpuy, Justyna Nagaj, Kamila Stokowa-Soltys & Stanislaw F. Wnuk (2016) S-Ribosylhomocysteine analogues modified at the ribosyl C-4 position, Journal of Sulfur Chemistry, 37:3, 307-327, DOI: 10.1080/17415993.2015.1137921

To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17415993.2015.1137921

Published online: 24 Feb 2016.
S-Ribosylhomocysteine analogues modified at the ribosyl C-4 position

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ABSTRACT
4-C-Alkyl/aryl-S-ribosylhomocysteine (SRH) analogues were prepared by coupling of homocysteine with 4-substituted ribofuranose derivatives. The diastereoselective incorporation of the methyl substituent into the 4 position of the ribose ring was accomplished by the addition of methylmagnesium bromide to the protected ribitol-4-ulose yielding the 4-C-methylribitol in 85% yield as single 4R diastereomer. The 4-C hexyl, octyl, vinyl, and aryl ribitols were prepared analogously. Chelation controlled addition of a carbanion to ketones from the Si-face was responsible for the observed stereochemical outcome. Oxidation of the primary alcohol of the 4-C ribitols with catalytic amounts of tetrapropylammonium per ruthenate in the presence of N-methylmorpholine N-oxide produced 4-C-alkylribo-1,4-lactones in high yields. Mesylation of the latter compounds at the 5-hydroxyl position and treatment with a protected homocysteine thiolate afforded protected 4-C-alkyl/aryl-SRH analogues as the lactones. Reduction with lithium triethylborohydride and successive global deprotections with TFA afforded 4-C-alkyl/aryl SRH analogues. These analogues might impede the S-ribosylhomocysteinase (LuxS)-catalyzed reaction by preventing β-elimination of a homocysteine molecule, and thus depleting the production of quorum sensing signaling molecule AI-2.

ARTICLE HISTORY
Received 12 November 2015
Accepted 30 December 2015

KEYWORDS
Homocysteine; LuxS; S-ribosylhomocysteine; ribonolactone; C-substituted ribose

1. Introduction
Quorumsensing (QS) is a process in which exchange of chemical signals enables bacterial population to take control of crucial functions in united communities for enhancement of symbiosis, virulence, and biofilm formation.[1–4] The interference in this chemical communication among bacteria could result in improving our control of bacterial infection.
Numerous small and macromolecules that modulate QS pathways have been designed and synthesized.[5–8] The acetylhomoserine-based isothiocyanate and haloacetamide probes, which covalently inhibit bacterial QS [9] and probes for signaling molecules which utilize ‘click chemistry’, [10] have been developed.

The S-ribosylhomocysteine sulfhydrylase (LuxS; EC 4.4.1.21) is a key enzyme in the biosynthetic pathway for conversion of S-ribosyl-l-homocysteine (SRH, 1; Figure 1) to homocysteine (Hcy) and 4,5-dihydroxy-2,3-pentadione (DPD), the precursor for the type II autoinducer (AI-2) [11] which mediates the interspecies QS among bacteria (see Figure 2).[12–14] Various SRH analogues have been designed as mechanistic probes and/or inhibitors of the LuxS enzyme.[6] Among them, one of the most important are SRH analogues that target mechanistic steps of the LuxS catalytic cycle by effecting the initial ring opening step (e.g. 1-deoxy-SRH analog 2 [15] and [4-aza]-3a [16] or 4-[thio]-SRH analogs 3b [17]; i.e. 1 → intermediate A, Figure 2) or one of the tautomeration/isomerization steps (A → B or B → C). These included substrates lacking the enolizable hydroxyl group at C3 (e.g. 4; X = H or OMe),[18] including mechanistically significant C3 halogenated [3-Br or F]-SRH analogues 4.[19] Zhou and co-workers synthesized substrate analogue S-homoribosyl-l-cysteine 5, which was designed to prevent the final mechanistic step of the LuxS catalytic cycle.[15] Moreover, brominated furanone derivatives were found to modify LuxS selectively leading to the covalent inhibition.[20]

The substitution of hydrogen at C4 by an alkyl or aryl group in SRH (e.g. 18) should impede the LuxS-catalyzed reaction by preventing β-elimination of a homocysteine molecule (i.e. C → D) since abstraction of the C4-proton by a general base (e.g. Glu158) from the intermediate C, when R = alkyl/aryl, will be disallowed (Figure 2). Consequently, the formation of DPD necessary for the production of AI-2 would be depleted with 4-C-alkyl-SRH analogues.

Since LuxS forms a dimer it is possible that the size and chemical nature of the group incorporated at C4 of the ribose ring might also play an additional role in inhibiting dimerization. Recently, the SRH analogues having the sterically demanding alkyl or aryl group at the Hcy fragment of the SRH have been designed and were attempted to be synthesized.[21] These analogues were thought to be able to bind to one monomer of the LuxS protein while blocking the correct association of the second monomer, possibly interfering with dimerization interfaces.[21–23] In theory, for example, the longer the alkyl chain incorporated at the C4 position in analogs 18, the more potent the inhibition of dimerization of LuxS might be observed since the inhibitor can reach both homodimer parts of the protein. The inhibitor might also block one monomer leading to the alteration of the activity and as a consequence conformational changes of the second monomer. Herein, we report synthesis
of [4-alkyl/aryl]-SRH analogues which would deplete the production of AI-2 by preventing elimination of Hcy and could also act as dimerization inhibitors.

2. Results and discussion

The 4-C-alkyl/aryl-S-ribosylhomocysteine analogues were prepared by coupling of the homocysteine with the 4-C-substituted ribofuranose derivatives. The 4-C-substituted riboses can be prepared either by manipulation of natural carbohydrates [24] or the chemoenzymatic strategy from non-sugar precursors.[25,26] From the method available, we chose Maddaford's method for diastereoselective incorporation of the alkyl substituent into the 4 position of the D-ribose ring by the addition of Grignard reagents to 4-ulose.[24] Reduction of the protected ribose 6 with NaBH₄ provided the acyclic ribitol 7 (Scheme 1). Regioselective silylation of the primary hydroxyl with TBDMSCl and subsequent Dess-Martin or Collins oxidation of the secondary hydroxyl in 8 yielded ketone 9. The overall yield for the conversion of the ribose to the ribitol-4-ulose 9 [27] was 75% (5 steps).

Treatment of ketone 9 with methylmagnesium bromide at −78°C produced the 4-C-methylribitol 4R-10a in 85% yield as a single isomer after purification by silica gel chromatography. The addition of the hexylmagnesium bromide or octylmagnesium bromide to ketone 9 gave the corresponding 4-C-hexyl and 4-C-octyl ribitols 10b and 10c in 74% and 69% isolated yields, respectively. The 4-C-vinyl ribitol 10d (61%) and 4-C-aryl ribitol 10e (96%) were prepared analogously. The Grignard reagent addition to the ribitol-4-ulose 9, which is an α-alkoxy ketone, is proposed to proceed via a 5-membered ring
Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (a) NaBH₄/EtOH/H₂O; (b) TBDMSCI/imidazole/CH₂Cl₂/16 h; (c) Dess-Martin (3 h) or Collins (1 h) reagents; (d) RMgX/Et₂O/−78°C; (e) TBAF/THF; (f) TPAP/NMO/CH₂Cl₂/6 h; (g) TFA/CH₂Cl₂/r.t.; and (h) LiEt₃BH/CH₂Cl₂/0°C/0.5 h.

Treatment of the 4-C-methylribitol 10a with TBAF (0°C/30 min) effected desilylation to give ribitol 11a (78%). Analogous deprotection of 10b–e produced the 4-C-substituted ribitols 11b–e (75–87%) with a primary hydroxyl group at C1 and a tertiary hydroxyl group at C4. For the ring closure, we elected the oxidation of the primary alcohol at C1 to the carboxylic acid with the concomitant ring closure to the corresponding ribono-1,4-lactones,[30,31] since such an approach would provide convenient precursors for the synthesis of both 4-C-substituted SRH lactones[32] and, after reduction, 4-C-alkyl/aryl SRH analogues. Thus, oxidation (6 h) of the 11a with a catalytic amount of tetrapropylammonium perruthenate (TPAP) in the presence of a stoichiometric amount of N-methylmorpholine N-oxide (NMO)[33,34] gave the corresponding 4-C-methylribono-1,4-lactone 12a (80%). The formation of lactone was supported by the disappearance of the signals for H1 and H1’ protons (¹H NMR) and the appearance of a peak at 172.1 ppm for the carbonyl carbon at C1 (¹³C NMR). Oxidation of 4-C-hexyl and 4-C-octyl ribitols 11b or 11c with TPAP/NMO also proceeded smoothly to give the 4-C-hexyl- and 4-C-octylribonolactones 12b and 12c (95%). The longer reaction time (e.g. 14 h), especially with
substrates with long alkyl chain (e.g. 11c), led to the formation of by-product(s) (∼30%). The 4-C-vinyl 12d and 4-C-aryl 12e lactones were obtained analogously by the oxidation of 11d and 11e, respectively.

Detritylation of 12a (6 h, rt) with TFA/CH₂Cl₂ gave 13a (66%). Analogous treatment of the hexyl 12b and octyl 12c with TFA (5 h, rt) gave ribono-1,4-lactones 13b and 13c in 80% and 75% yields, respectively. The longer reaction time should be avoided since the formation of by-product(s) was observed during detritylation of 12b to 13b when the reaction was carried out for 16 h.[35] Treatment of the vinyl analogue 12d with TFA (5 h, rt) also gave detritylated ribonolactone 13d but only in 35% yield after purification on silica gel column chromatography. Similarly, 4-C-aryl analogues 12e were converted to 13e (70%).

Careful reduction of the protected 4-C-hexyl ribonolactone 12b with LiEt₃BH₃ (−20°C, 30 min) gave lactol 14b as an anomeric mixture (α/β, 1:3) in 54% yield after column chromatography. The chemical shifts for the anomeric protons and the magnitude of vicinal 3JH₁–H₂ coupling constants were diagnostic [36,37] for the determination of the composition of α/β anomers. The anomeric proton for α-isomer [5.61 ppm (dd, J = 4.2, 11.5 Hz)] appeared as doublet of doublets with splitting to H₂ and OH group, while H₁ proton for β-anomer appears upfield as a doublet [5.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz)].

Next, the coupling of the selected ribono-1,4-lactones 13 with homocysteine was examined. Thus, treatment of 13b, 13c, or 13e with methylsulfonyl chloride gave the primary 5-O-mesityl derivatives 15b, 15c, and 15e (60–83%). From different approaches [13,15,38–40] tested for the nucleophilic displacement of the mesylate in 15 with homocysteine thiolates, we found that reactions with the (N-Boc, COO-tBu) protected homocysteine, generated in situ by the reduction of the corresponding homocystine [13] with water-extractable tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine [18] gave the best results. Thus, treatment of the 15b with homocysteine thiolate (3 equiv) generated from BocNHCH(CH₂CH₂SH)CO₂t-Bu/LDA afforded protected 4-C-hexyl-SRH lactone 16b (65%, Scheme 2). Analogous coupling of 15c with Hcy gave 16c, contaminated with the protected Hcy substrate (∼1:1), which was directly used in the subsequent deprotection step. 4-C-Aryl mesylate 15e was coupled with homocysteine thiolate to give 16e (48%). It is noteworthy to add that displacement of the

![Scheme 2](image_url)

**Scheme 2.** MsCl/TEA/CH₂Cl₂; (b) BocNHCH(CH₂CH₂SH)CO₂t-Bu/LDA/DMF; (c) TFA/H₂O; and (d) LiEt₃BH/THF.
primary mesylate (or tosylate) from the highly branching ribonolactones 15 having trisubstituted carbon (C4) at the adjacent position needs to be carried out with great caution to avoid the formation of by-products. The structure of one such by-product isolated from the reaction of 15c with Hcy was tentatively assigned as the 2,3-O-isopropylidene-4-C-octyl-D-ribono-1,5-lactone (see note under the experimental procedure for 17c) based on the spectroscopic analysis (1H and 13C NMR and HRMS) and by comparison with the similar ribono-1,5-lactones.[41]

Treatment of 16b with TFA effected global removal of the N-Boc, acetonide and t-butyl ester protecting groups to give 4-C-hexyl-SRH lactone 17b in 55% yield after HPLC purification. Analogous treatment of the crude 16c with TFA and purification of the resulting mixture on the Sep-Pak column gave 4-C-octyl-SRH lactone 17c in 21% overall yield from 15c. Deprotection of 16e gave 4-C-(4-methoxyphenyl)-SRH lactone 17e (75%).

Synthesis of the somehow unstable 4-C-alkyl/aryl-SRH derivatives 19 was accomplished by the reduction of either protected 16 or deprotected 17 lactones with lithium triethylborohydride. Thus, treatment of 17c with LiEt3BH/THF (2 equiv.) in CH2Cl2 at −20°C effected reduction of the lactone yielding 4-C-octyl SRH 19c (α/β, ~1:3; 60%). Alternatively, reduction of the protected 4-C-hexyl-SRH lactone 16b with LiEt3BH followed by deprotection of the resulting 18b with TFA and TFA/H2O afforded 4-C-hexyl-SRH 19b (α/β, 1:9; 75%). Similarly, subjection of 16e to the reduction and deprotection sequence afforded 4-C-(4-methoxyphenyl)-SRH 19e (α/β, 1:9; 77%).

3. Conclusion
We have developed synthesis of S-ribosylhomocysteine analogues substituted at the ribosyl C-4 position with the alkyl or aryl group. The critical steps in this multistep synthesis starting from ribose were (i) diastereoselective addition of the alkyl/aryl-magnesium bromides to protected ribitol-4-ulose to produce the 4-C-alkyl/aryl-ribitols in high yields as single 4R diastereomers, (ii) oxidation of the primary alcohol at C1 of the 4-C substituted ribitols with the catalytic amounts of tetrapropylammonium perruthenate in the presence of a stoichiometric amount of N-methylmorpholine N-oxide to give 4-C-alkyl/aryl-ribono-1,4-lactones in good yields, (iii) displacement of 5-mesylate with the protected homocysteine thiolate to afford protected 4-C-alkyl/aryl-SRH analogues with a lactone carbonyl at the C1 position, and (iv) reduction with lithium triethylborohydride and successive global deprotections with TFA to give 4-C-alkyl/aryl-SRH analogues. Enzymatic and biological properties of these novel analogues of SRH will be published elsewhere.

4. Experimental section
4.1. General procedures
The 1H (400 or 600 MHz) and 13C (100 MHz) NMR spectra were determined with solutions in CDCl3 unless otherwise noted. Mass spectra (MS) and HRMS were obtained in the AP-ESI or TOF-ESI mode. TLC was performed with Merck kieselgel 60-F254 sheets, products were detected with 254 nm light or by visualization with the Ce(SO4)2/(NH4)6Mo7O24·4H2O/H2SO4/H2O reagent. Merck kieselgel 60 (230–400 mesh) was used for column chromatography. Final products were purified using the HPLC
[XTerra preparative RP18 OBD column (5 μm 19 × 150 mm) with a gradient program using CH₃CN/H₂O as a mobile phase] or Sep-Pak cartridge (C18 classic column) using water and ethanol as eluting system. Reagent grade chemicals were used, and solvents were dried by reflux over and distillation from CaH₂ (except for THF/potassium) under argon. The 4-C-substituted SRH analogues need to be handled with care and stored in a refrigerator (∼4°C) in solid or dried oil state.

4.2. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-5-O-tritylribitol (7)

NaBH₄ (91 mg, 2.4 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 6 [42] (865 mg, 2.0 mmol) in EtOH (20 mL) at 0°C (ice bath) under N₂ atmosphere. After 1 h, the reaction mixture was partitioned between NaHCO₃/H₂O and EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and evaporated. The residue was column chromatographed (30% hexane/EtOAc) to give 7 [24] (807 mg, 93%): ¹H NMR δ 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.96 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H, OH), 3.08 (dd, J = 5.0, 8.4 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.34 (dd, J = 6.9, 9.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.50 (dd, J = 2.9, 9.8 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.75–3.81 (m, 1H, H1'), 3.83–3.91 (m, 1H, H4), 4.10–4.17 (m, 1H, H2), 4.33–4.40 (m, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); MS (ESI⁺) m/z 457 (M+Na⁺).

4.3. 1-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,3-O-isopropylidene-5-O-tritylribitol (8)

TBDMSCl (302 mg, 2.0 mmol) and imidazole (204 mg, 3.0 mmol) were added to a solution of 7 (652 mg, 1.5 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) at room temperature and stirring was continued for 72 h. The volatiles were evaporated and the residue was partitioned between saturated NH₄Cl/H₂O and EtOAc. The separated organic layer was then washed with NaHCO₃/H₂O, dried over Mg₂SO₄, evaporated and the resulting residue was column chromatographed (50% hexane/EtOAc) to give 8 [24] (666 mg, 81%) as an amorphous white powder: ¹H NMR δ 0.08 (s, 6H, SiMe₂), 0.81 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.20 (dd, J = 5.3, 9.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.25 (dd, J = 2.8, 9.7 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.49 (dd, J = 4.1, 10.6 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.68 (dd, J = 8.7, 10.5 Hz, 1H, H1'), 3.79–3.81 (m, 1H, H4), 4.13–4.15 (m, 1H, H2), 4.22 (dd, J = 5.5, 9.2 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); MS (ESI⁺) m/z 571 (M+Na⁺).

4.4. 1-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,3-O-isopropylidene-5-O-tritylribitol-4-ulose (9)

Method A. The Dess-Martin reagent (2.35 mL of 15 wt% solution/CH₂Cl₂; 381 mg, 0.9 mmol) was added to a solution of 8 (330 mg, 0.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8 mL) at room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was partitioned between saturated NaHCO₃ (10 mL)/dilute Na₂S₂O₃ (5 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and evaporated. The residue was column chromatographed (85% hexane/EtOAc) to give 9 [24] (300 mg, 91%) as an oil: ¹H NMR δ 0.08 (s, 6H, SiMe₂), 0.81 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.68 (dd, J = 4.2, 11.2 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.76 (dd, J = 4.0, 11.2 Hz, 1H, H1'), 4.04 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.20 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.51–4.53 (m, 1H, H2), 4.71 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); MS (ESI⁺) m/z 569 (M+Na⁺).
Method B. A freshly prepared solution of the Collins reagent [CrO$_3$ (144 mg, 1.44 mmol), pyridine (0.116 mL, 114 mg, 1.44 mmol), and Ac$_2$O (0.272 mL, 294 mg, 2.88 mmol) in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (2 mL)] was added to a stirred solution of 8 (200 mg, 0.36 mmol) in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (8 mL) at ambient temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h and was immediately column chromatographed (EtOAc) to give 9 (185 mg, 93%) with spectra properties as above.

### 4.5. General procedure for the synthesis of 4-C-substituted ribitols 10

RMgBr reagent (0.75 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 9 (205 mg, 0.375 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) at −78°C under N$_2$ atmosphere. After 15 min, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to ambient temperature and was kept stirring for 2 h. The reaction was then quenched by the addition of MeOH (1 mL) and diluted with EtOAc (15 mL). The resulting mixture was washed with 0.1 N HCl and the organic layer dried over anhydrous MgSO$_4$. Volatiles were evaporated and the crude residue was then purified by flash column chromatography (90% hexane/EtOAc).

#### 4.5.1. 1-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,3-O-isopropylidene-4-C-methyl-5-O-tritylribitol (10a)

Treatment of 9 (205 mg, 0.375 mmol) with MeMgBr (1 M/THF, 0.75 mL, 0.75 mmol), using the procedure reported in Section 4.5, gave 10a [24] (180 mg, 85%) as a clear oil: $^1$H NMR δ 0.08 (s, 6H, SiMe$_2$), 0.81 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.40 (s, 6H, 2 × CH$_3$), 3.01 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, H5), 3.12 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.25 (dd, $J = 3.8$, 10.9 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.70 (dd, $J = 3.8$, 10.9 Hz, 1H, H1'), 3.90–3.95 (m, 1H, H2), 4.40 (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); HRMS calcd for C$_{34}$H$_{46}$O$_5$SiNa$^+$ [M+Na]$^+$ 585.3007, found 585.3009.

#### 4.5.2. 1-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-4-C-hexyl-2,3-O-isopropylidene-5-O-tritylribitol (10b)

Treatment of 9 (165 mg, 0.30 mmol) with n-C$_6$H$_{13}$MgBr (0.8 M/THF, 0.75 mL, 0.75 mmol), using the procedure reported in Section 4.5 (flash column chromatography; 80% hexane/EtOAc), gave 10b (140 mg, 74%) as a clear oil: $^1$H NMR δ 0.08 (s, 6H, SiMe$_2$), 0.81 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 0.89 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H, H6a ), 1.30–1.40 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.50 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 3.06 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H, H5), 3.22 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.28 (dd, $J = 3.8$, 11.1 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.72 (dd, $J = 7.6$, 11.0 Hz, 1H, H1'), 3.80–3.85 (m, 1H, H2), 4.40 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); HRMS calcd for C$_{39}$H$_{56}$O$_5$SiNa$^+$ [M+Na]$^+$ 655.3789, found 655.3799.

#### 4.5.3. 1-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,3-O-isopropylidene-4-C-octyl-5-O-tritylribitol (10c)

Treatment of 9 (480 mg, 0.87 mmol) with n-C$_8$H$_{17}$MgBr (2 M/THF; 0.87 mL, 1.74 mmol), using the procedure reported in Section 4.5, gave 10c (402 mg, 69%) as a clear oil: $^1$H NMR δ 0.08 (s, 6H, SiMe$_2$), 0.81 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 0.89 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H, H6a ), 1.28–1.30 (m, 12H, H2a–H5a), 1.38 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.42 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 3.05 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H, H5), 3.21 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.26 (dd, $J = 3.8$, 11.0 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.70 (dd, $J = 3.9$, 11.0 Hz, 1H, H1'), 3.80–3.85 (m, 1H, H2), 4.40 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H,

4.5.4. 1-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,3-O-isopropylidene-5-O-trityl-4-C-vinylribitol (10d)

Treatment of 9 (120 mg, 0.21 mmol) with vinyl-MgBr (1 M/THF; 0.42 mL, 0.42 mmol), using the procedure reported in Section 4.5, gave 10d (78 mg, 61%) as a clear oil; ¹H NMR δ 0.08 (s, 6H, SiMe₂), 0.81 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.92 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.42 (dd, J = 4.5, 10.7 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.80 (dd, J = 8.5, 10.7 Hz, 1H, H1'), 4.00–4.13 (m, 1H, H2), 4.69 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.16 (dd, J = 1.7, 10.9 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 5.40 (dd, J = 1.8, 17.4 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 6.20 (dd, J = 10.9, 17.4 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); ¹³CNMR δ −5.40 (SiMe₂), 21.02 and 25.29 (CMe₂), 25.77 (SiCMe₃), 31.58 (SiCMe₃), 60.47 (CPh₃), 61.98 (C1), 69.13 (C5), 74.87 (C4), 78.15 (C2), 78.45 (C3), 107.87 (CH=CH₂), 114.84 (CMe₂), 126.91 and 127.71 and 128.87 and 143.40 (Ar), 146.89 (CH=CH₂); HRMS calcd for C₃₅H₄₆O₅SiNa⁺ [M+Na]⁺ 597.3007; found 597.3006.

4.5.5. 1-O-tert-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,3-O-isopropylidene-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-5-O-tritylribitol (10e)

Treatment of 9 (165 mg, 0.30 mmol) with 4-MeOC₆H₄MgBr (1 M/THF; 0.60 mL, 0.60 mmol), using the procedure reported in Section 4.5, gave 10e (190 mg, 96%) as a clear oil; ¹H NMR δ 0.08 (s, 6H, SiMe₂), 0.81 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.01 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.15 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.41 (dd, J = 4.5, 10.8 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH₃O), 3.85 (dd, J = 4.5, 10.8 Hz, 1H, H1'), 4.19–4.22 (m, 1H, H2), 5.05 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H, H3), 6.85 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar), 7.61 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, Ar); HRMS calcd for C₄₀H₅₀O₆SiNa⁺ [M+Na]⁺ 677.3269, found 677.3256.

4.6. General procedure for desilylation of 4-C-substituted ribitols

TBAF (1 M/THF; 0.4 mL, 0.4 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 10 (0.33 mmol) in THF (6 mL) at 0°C (ice bath). After 1 h, the volatiles were evaporated and the resulting residue was washed with NaHCO₃/H₂O and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was then dried over Mg₂SO₄ and evaporated to give the crude residue which was column chromatographed (80 → 70% hexane/EtOAc).

4.6.1. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-methyl-5-O-tritylribitol (11a)

Treatment of 10a (189 mg, 0.33 mmol) with TBAF, using the procedure reported in Section 4.6, gave 11a (118 mg, 78%); ¹H NMR δ 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.49 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.05 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.32 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.58 (dd, J = 5.2, 12.0 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.75 (dd, J = 5.5, 12 Hz, 1H, H1'), 4.10–4.20 (m, 1H, H2), 4.30 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); ¹³CNMR δ 14.21 (C1a), 25.17 and 27.28 (CMe₂), 60.42 (C5), 61.43 (C1), 67.95 (CPh₃), 68.38 (C4), 77.61 (C2), 79.10 (C3), 107.67 (CMe₂), 127.27 and 127.97 and 128.62 and 143.43 (Ar); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₂₃O₃SiNa⁺ [M+Na]⁺ 471.2142; found 471.2158.
4.6.2. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-hexyl-5-O-tritylribitol (11b)

Treatment of 10b (280 mg, 0.44 mmol) with TBAF, using the procedure reported in Section 4.6, gave 11b (145 mg, 87%) as a viscous oil: 1H NMR δ 0.85 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.30–1.40 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a), 1.25 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.40–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 2.91 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.20 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.30 (dd, J = 5.0, 12.2 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.40 (dd, J = 5.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H, H1'), 3.80 (q, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.15 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); 13C NMR δ 14.14 (C6a), 22.61, 23.06, 29.74, 31.83 (C2a–C5a), 25.45 and 27.57 (CMe2), 36.05 (C1a), 61.88 (C1), 64.11 (C5), 74.35 (CPh3), 77.55 (C4), 79.14 (C2), 86.92 (C3), 107.21 (CMe2), 127.31 and 127.96 and 143.37 (Ar); HRMS calcd for C33H42O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 541.2924; found 541.2924.

4.6.3. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-octyl-5-O-tritylribitol (11c)

Treatment of 10c (350 mg, 0.52 mmol) with TBAF, using the procedure reported in Section 4.6, gave 11c (200 mg, 84%) as a viscous oil: 1H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H8a), 1.20–1.30 (m, 12H, H2a–H7a), 1.29 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.40 (s, CH3), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 2.95 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.25 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.35 (dd, J = 4.92, 12.2 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.45 (dd, J = 5.4, 12.2 Hz, 1H, H1'), 3.87–3.94 (m, 1H, H2), 4.10 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); 13C NMR δ 14.24 (C8a), 22.79, 23.17, 29.35, 29.68, 30.18, 32.00 (C2a–C7a), 25.54 and 27.65 (CMe2), 36.13 (C1a), 61.94 (C1), 64.27 (C5), 74.41 (CPh3), 77.65 (C4), 79.28 (C2), 87.00 (C3), 107.27 (CMe2), 127.37, 128.03, 128.75 and 143.49 (Ar); HRMS calcd for C35H46O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 569.3237; found 569.3237.

4.6.4. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-vinyl-5-O-tritylribitol (11d)

Treatment of 10d (200 mg, 0.34 mmol) with TBAF, using the procedure reported in Section 4.6, gave 11d (124 mg, 77%) as a viscous oil: 1H NMR δ 1.35 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH3), 3.38 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.54 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.58 (dd, J = 5.1, 11.3 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.90 (d, J = 8.6, 11.3 Hz, 1H, H1'), 4.25–4.30 (m, 1H, H2), 4.32 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.20 (dd, J = 1.2, 11.0 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 5.40 (dd, J = 1.5, 17.6 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 6.20 (dd, J = 11.0, 17.5 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); 13C NMR δ 24.65 and 27.07 (CMe2), 60.29 (CPh3), 60.62 (C1), 68.07 (C5), 77.90 (C2), 78.10 (C4), 82.01 (C3), 115.48 (CMe2), 116.03 (CH=CH2), 126.82 and 127.65 and 128.75 and 143.28 (Ar), 146.88 (CH=CH2); HRMS calcd for C29H32O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 483.2142, found 483.2131.

4.6.5. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-5-O-tritylribitol (11e)

Treatment of 10e (190 mg, 0.29 mmol) with TBAF, using the procedure reported in Section 4.6, gave 11e (117 mg, 75%) as a viscous oil: 1H NMR δ 1.35 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH3), 3.01 (dd, J = 6.0, 11.7 Hz, 1H, H1), 3.03 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.23 (dd, J = 6.0, 11.7 Hz, 1H, H1'), 3.45 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.72 (s, 3H, CH3O), 4.19–4.22 (m, 1H, H2), 4.75 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 6.85 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.61 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); 13C NMR δ 24.65 and 27.07 (CMe2), 55.19 (CH3O), 60.04 (CPh3), 61.28 (C1), 69.73 (C5), 78.08 (C2), 79.05 (C3), 82.02 (C4), 113.48 (CMe2), 127.25, 127.37, 127.92, 159.10 (Ar), 128.57 and 129.68 and 132.91 and 146.88 (Ar); HRMS calcd for C34H36O6Na+ [M+Na]+ 563.2404; found 563.2386.
4.7. General procedure for the synthesis of 4-C-substituted ribono-1,4-lactones 12

N-Methylmorpholine N-oxide (NMO; 50 mg, 0.42 mmol) and tetrapropylammonium per ruthenate (TPAP; 1 mg, 0.002 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of 11 (0.11 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (3.5 mL) at ambient temperature under N₂ atmosphere. After 6 h, the reaction mixture was filtered off and the filtrate was dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (75 → 50% hexane/EtOAc) to give 12.

**Note:** Treatment of 11 with NMO and TPAP, as described above, in the presence of 4 Å molecular sieves (100 mg) also gave lactones 12 in similar yields.

4.7.1. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-methyl-5-O-trityl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (12a)

Treatment of 11a (51 mg, 0.11 mmol) with NMO/TPAP, using the procedure reported in Section 4.7, gave 12a (40 mg, 80%): ¹H NMR δ 1.30 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.91 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.50 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, H1, H₅'), 4.20 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.01 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); ¹³C NMR δ 16.40 (C₁a) 25.90 and 26.78 (C₆Me₂), 66.65 (C₅Ph₃), 67.63 (C₅), 77.70 (C₃), 88.56 (C₄), 126.07 (CMe₂), 127.46 and 128.25 and 128.67 and 146.87 (Ar), 172.07 (C₁); HRMS calcd for C₂₈H₂₈O₅Na⁺ [M+Na]⁺ 467.1829, found 467.1847.

4.7.2. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-hexyl-5-O-trityl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (12b)

Treatment of 11b (37 mg, 0.09 mmol) with NMO/TPAP, using the procedure reported in Section 4.7, gave 12b (35 mg, 94%): ¹H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H₆a), 1.19–1.21 (m, 8H, H₂a–H₅a), 1.24 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H₁a), 2.85 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.51 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H, H₅'), 4.10 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.01 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); ¹³C NMR δ 13.98 (C₆a), 22.45, 23.33, 29.42, 31.30 (C₂a–C₅a), 25.91 and 26.76 (C₆Me₂), 31.60 (C₁a), 66.29 (C₅), 77.57 (C₃), 87.75 (C₄), 88.26 (CPh₃), 112.92 (CMe₂), 127.41, 128.16, 128.52 and 142.95 (Ar), 174.41 (C₁); MS (ESI⁺) m/z 532 (M+NH₄)⁺.

4.7.3. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-octyl-5-O-trityl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (12c)

Treatment of 11c (48 mg, 0.08 mmol) with NMO/TPAP, using the procedure reported in Section 4.7, gave 12c (32 mg, 95%): ¹H NMR δ 0.80–0.84 (m, 3H, H₈a), 1.10–1.20 (s, 12H, H₂a–H₇a), 1.25 (s, CH₃), 1.40 (s, CH₃), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H₁a), 2.90 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.55 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H, H₅'), 4.10 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.01 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); ¹³C NMR δ 14.23 (C₈a), 22.77, 23.50, 29.24, 29.29, 30.06, 31.72 (C₂a–C₇a), 26.06 and 26.92 (CMe₂), 31.93 (C₁a), 66.39 (C₅), 77.57 (C₃), 80.11 (C₂), 87.94 (C₄), 88.38 (CPh₃), 113.07 (CMe₂), 127.56, 128.31, 128.65, 143.07 (Ar), 174.63 (C₁); MS (ESI⁺) m/z 560 (M+NH₄)⁺.

**Note:** When oxidation of 11c was carried out overnight instead of 6 h, a second minor product (~30%) was formed in addition to 12c. The minor product had the following ribosyl peaks: ¹H NMR δ 3.75 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H).

4.7.4. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-5-O-trityl-4-C-vinyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (12d)

Treatment of 11d (100 mg, 0.21 mmol) with NMO/TPAP, using the procedure reported in Section 4.7, gave 12d (90 mg, 95%): ¹H NMR δ 1.22 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.26 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.91...
(d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.50 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, H1, H5'), 4.20 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.00 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.21 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 5.34 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H, CHH), 5.61 (dd, J = 11.2, 17.4 Hz, 1H, CHH), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15 H); 13C NMR δ 25.92 and 26.64 (C Me2), 53.50 (C Ph3), 65.50 (C5), 80.01 (C2), 82.03 (C3), 88.87 (C4), 112.03 (CH=CH2), 118.50 (C Me2), 127.29, 127.95, 129.69 and 145.01 (Ar), 146.85 (CH=CH2), 174.14 (C1); HRMS (TOF) m/z calcd for C29H28O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 479.1829; found 479.1829.

4.7.5. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-5-O-trityl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (12e)

Treatment of 11e (90 mg, 0.16 mmol) with NMO/TPAP, using the procedure reported in Section 4.7, gave 12e (73 mg, 82%): 1H NMR δ 1.22 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.25 (s, 3H, CH3), 3.25 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.35 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH3O), 4.48 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.20 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar); 13C NMR δ 25.92 and 26.64 (C Me2), 55.18 (CH3O), 62.94 (C Ph3), 68.79 (C5), 77.71 (C2), 80.77 (C3), 88.87 (C4), 113.60 (C Me2), 126.9, 127.25, 128.75 and 159.10 (Ar), 128.57, 129.68, 132.91 and 146.40 (Ar), 174.14 (C1); MS (ESI) m/z 554 (M+ NH4)+.

4.8. General procedure for detritylation of 4-C-substituted ribono-1,4-lactones

TFA (0.5 mL) and CH2Cl2 (5 mL) were added to a stirred solution of 12 (0.1 mmol) at ambient temperature for 6 h. The volatiles were evaporated and the residue co-evaporated with toluene. The separated organic layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO4), evaporated and was purified on a silica gel column (hexane/EtOAc, 8:2).

4.8.1. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-methyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (13a)

Treatment of 12a (44 mg, 0.1 mmol) with TFA, using the procedure reported in Section 4.8, gave 13a (13 mg, 66%): 1H NMR δ 1.32 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.42 (s, 3H, CH3), 3.60 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.71 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, H1, H5'), 4.55 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.90 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3); 13C NMR δ 16.42 (C1a), 25.81 and 26.76 (C Me2), 67.61 (C5), 77.82 (C2), 80.01 (C3), 86.35 (C4), 113.02 (C Me2), 174.46 (C1); HRMS (TOF) m/z calcd for C9H14O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 225.0733; found 225.0734.

4.8.2. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-hexyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (13b)

Treatment of 12b (31 mg, 0.06 mmol) with TFA, using the procedure reported in Section 4.8 (flash column chromatography; 80% hexane/EtOAc), gave 13b (12.5 mg, 80%): 1H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.19–1.21 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.50 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 3.75 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.85 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.65 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.96 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3); 13C NMR δ 14.06 (C6a), 22.47, 23.54, 29.42, 31.48 (C2a–C5a), 25.79 and 26.78 (C Me2), 31.91 (C1a), 65.83 (C5), 77.20 (C3), 80.63 (C2), 89.73 (C4), 112.85 (C Me2), 172.67 (C1); HRMS (TOF) m/z calcd for C14H24O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 295.1516, found 295.1516.
4.8.3. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-octyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (13c)

Treatment of 12c (35 mg, 0.065 mmol) with TFA, using the procedure reported in Section 4.8, gave 13c (16 mg, 75%): 1H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H8a), 1.30–1.32 (m, 12H, H2a–H7a), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a, H3a), 3.75 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.65 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.95 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3); 13CNMR δ 14.25 (CH3, C8a), 22.74, 23.64, 29.30, 29.41, 30.21, 31.27 (C2a–C7a), 25.93 and 26.9 (CMe2), 31.98 (C1a), 65.92 (C5), 77.46 (C3), 79.91 (C2), 88.94 (C4), 113.0 (CMe2), 174.98 (C1); HRMS (TOF) m/z calcd for C16H28O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 323.1829; found 323.1915.

4.8.4. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-vinyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (13d)

Treatment of 12d (30 mg, 0.065 mmol) with TFA, using the procedure reported in Section 4.8 (flash column chromatography; 80% hexane/EtOAc), gave somehow an unstable product 13d (5 mg, 35%): 1HNMR δ 1.22 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.26 (s, 3H, CH3), 3.61 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.65 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.60 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.82 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.24 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH), 5.34 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H, C=CH2), 5.71 (dd, J = 11.2, 17.5 Hz, 1H, CH=CHH); 13CNMR δ 25.87, 26.70 (CMe2), 66.37 (C5), 76.70 (C2), 80.01 (C3), 87.95 (C4), 113.29 (CMe2), 118.21 (CH=CH2), 130.53 (CH=CH2), 174.06 (C1); HRMS (TOF) m/z calcd for C10H14O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 237.0733; found 237.0733.

4.8.5. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (13e)

Treatment of 12e (70 mg, 0.13 mmol) with TFA, using the procedure reported in Section 4.8 (flash column chromatography; 80% hexane/EtOAc), gave 13e (23 mg, 70%): 1HNMR δ 1.22 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.25 (s, 3H, CH3), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH3O), 3.85 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.95 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.95 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.15 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H, H3), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, Ar); 13CNMR δ 25.83 and 26.65 (CMe2), 55.25 (CH3O), 68.50 (C5), 77.41 (C2), 80.57 (C3), 90.12 (C4), 112.93 (CMe2), 113.76, 126.17, 126.89, 159.33 (Ar); 174.86 (C1); HRMS (TOF) m/z calcd for C15H18O6Na+ [M+Na]+ 317.0996; found 317.0982.

4.9. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-hexyl-5-O-trityl-D-ribofuranose (14b)

LiEt3BH (1M/THF, 0.18 mL, 0.18 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 12b (36 mg, 0.07 mmol) in CH2Cl2 (0.5 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min at −20°C under N2 atmosphere. The reaction was quenched with MeOH and the volatiles were evaporated. The residue was partitioned between CH2Cl2 and NaHCO3, was washed with brine and dried with anhydrous MgSO4. The resulting oil was column chromatographed (75:15, hexane/EtOAc) to give 14b (α/β; 1:3; 20 mg, 54%). The major β-anomer had: 1HNMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a), 1.33 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 3.16 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.32 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.74 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, OH), 4.50 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H, H3), 4.75 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H1). 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar). The minor α-anomer had: 1HNMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a), 1.33 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 2.94 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.25 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.86 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, OH), 4.20 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H, H3), 4.62 (dd, J = 4.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H, H2).
5.61 (dd, J = 4.2, 11.5 Hz, 1H, H1), 7.25–7.38 (m, 15H, Ar). $^{13}$C NMR for the mixture of $\alpha/\beta$-anomers: δ 14.01 (C6a), 23.61 and 23.94 (CMe2), 24.57 and 24.98 (CMe2), 25.99, 26.22, 29.65, 31.51 (C2a–C5a), 31.83 (C1a), 67.33 and 68.18 (C5), 80.01 and 82.78 (C2), 83.09 and 83.82 (C3), 88.05 and 88.12 (C4), 96.55 and 102.85 (C1), 112.06 and 112.32 (CMe2), 127.22, 127.45, 127.97, 128.05, 128.65, 128.76, 142.90, 143.49 (Ar); HRMS (TOF-ESI) m/z calcd for C$_{33}$H$_{40}$O$_{5}$Na$^+$ [M+Na]$^+$ 539.2768; found 539.2789.

4.10. General procedure for the synthesis of 5-O-mesyl-4-C-substituted ribono-1,4-lactones 15

TEA (48 µL, 34 mg, 0.33 mmol) and MsCl (11.4 µL, 19.5 mg, 0.15 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of 13 (0.1 mmol) in dry CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (2 mL) at 0°C (ice bath) under N$_2$ atmosphere. After 1 h, the reaction mixture was partitioned between CH$_2$Cl$_2$ and diluted HCl. The separated organic layer was washed with aqueous solution of NaHCO$_3$, brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO$_4$. Volatiles were evaporated and the residue was purified on silica column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 6:4).

4.10.1. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-hexyl-5-O-mesyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (15b)

Treatment of 13b (27 mg, 0.1 mmol) with MsCl, using the procedure reported in Section 4.10, gave 15b (21 mg, 60%): $^1$H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a), 1.33 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 2.99 (s, 3H, Ms), 4.20 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.32 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.60 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.88 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H, H3); $^{13}$C NMR δ 14.03 (CH$_3$, C6a), 22.46, 23.36, 29.55, 31.38 (C2a–C5a), 25.78 and 26.69 (CMe2), 31.45 (C1a), 37.62 (Ms), 71.80 (C5), 76.70 (C3), 78.91 (C2), 85.77 (C4), 113.79 (CMe2), 173.21 (C1); HRMS (TOF-ESI) m/z calcd for C$_{15}$H$_{26}$O$_{7}$SNa$^+$ [M+Na]$^+$ 373.1291; found 373.1307.

4.10.2. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-5-O-mesyl-4-C-octyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (15c)

Treatment of 13c (32 mg, 0.1 mmol) with MsCl, using the procedure reported in Section 4.10, gave 15c (19 mg, 68%): $^1$H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.20–1.28 (m, 12H, H2a–H7a), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 3.05 (s, 3H, Ms), 4.20 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.32 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.60 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.84 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, H3); $^{13}$C NMR δ 14.24 (CH$_3$, C8a), 22.78, 23.52, 29.22, 29.30, 30.02, 31.58 (C2a–C7a), 25.92 and 26.82 (CMe2), 31.94 (C1a), 37.62 (Ms), 71.80 (C5), 76.70 (C3), 78.91 (C2), 85.77 (C4), 113.79 (CMe2), 173.21 (C1); MS (ESI) m/z 401 (M+Na)$^+$.

4.10.3. 2,3-O-Isopropylidene-5-O-mesyl-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone (15e)

Treatment of 13e (24 mg, 0.08 mmol) with MsCl, using the procedure reported in Section 4.10, gave 15e (25 mg, 83%): $^1$H NMR δ 1.35 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 3.0 (s, 3H, Ms), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH$_3$O), 4.20 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.55 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H5'), 5.01 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.15 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, Ar); $^{13}$C NMR δ 25.90 and 26.58 (CMe2), 44.10 (Ms), 55.33 (CH$_3$O), 73.26 (C5), 77.35 (C2), 79.71 (C3), 87.04 (C4), 113.79 (CMe2), 114.10, 124.91, 127.00, 159.95.
(Ar); 173.01 (C1); HRMS (TOF-ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O₈Na⁺ [M+Na]⁺ 395.0771; found 395.0793.

4.11. General procedure for the synthesis of 4-C-substituted S-ribosylhomocysteine lactones 16

Step a. H₂O (0.24 mL) and tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine hydrochloride (88 mg, 0.31 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of N,N’-di(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-l-homocystine di(tert-butyl) ester[13] (160 mg, 0.28 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2.4 mL) at ambient temperature under Ar atmosphere. After 20 h, the reaction mixture was partitioned between EtOAc, and saturated NaHCO₃/H₂O. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated to give N-tert-butoxycarbonyl-l-homocysteine tert-butyl ester (159 mg, 99%) as a colorless oil of sufficient purity to be directly used in the next step.

Step b. LDA (2M/THF and heptanes, 48 μl, 0.96 mmol) was added slowly to a stirred solution of the freshly prepared protected l-homocysteine (29 mg, 0.1 mmol; from step (a) in anhydrous DMF 1.5 ml under Ar atmosphere at 0°C (ice bath). After 30 min, a solution of 15 (0.035 mmol) in DMF (1 mL) was added by a syringe and the mixture was left stirring for 15 min at 0°C then at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was quenched with NH₄Cl and the volatiles were evaporated under high vacuum. The residue was partitioned between EtOAc and NaHCO₃, washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Volatiles were evaporated and the resulting oil was column chromatographed (hexane/EtOAc, 8:2).

4.11.1. S-(2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-hexyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone-5-yl)-N-tert-butoxycarbonyl-l-homocysteine tert-butyl ester (16b)

Treatment of 15b (11 mg, 0.031 mmol) with homocysteinate salt, using the procedure reported in Section 4.11, gave 16b (18 mg, 65%): ¹H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H₆a), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H, H₂a–H₅a), 1.31 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.39 and 1.41 (2 × s, 2 × 9H, 2 × t-Bu), 1.42 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H₁a), 1.75–1.85 (m, 1H, H₈), 1.95–2.05 (m, 1H, H₈’), 2.46–2.54 (m, 2H, H₇,7’), 2.72 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H, H₅), 2.80 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H, H₅’), 4.20–4.25 (m, 1H, H₉), 4.40 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H₃), 5.00 (br. d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, NH), 5.10 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H₂); ¹³C NMR δ 14.01 (C₆a), 22.5 and 22.7 (CH₂Me), 23.45, 25.66, 26.56, 30.67 (C₂a–C₅a), 27.9 (C₇), 28.08 (t-Bu), 28.32 (t-Bu), 34.34 (C₁a), 35.8 (C₈), 39.86 (C₅), 53.6 (C₉), 77.0 (C₂), 77.20 (C₃), 80.59 (t-Bu), 82.41 (t-Bu), 88.98 (C₄), 113.30 (CMe₂), 156.1 (Boc), 171.3 and 174.0 (C₁ and C₁₀); HRMS (TOF-ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₄₈NO₈S⁺ [M+H]⁺ 546.3095; found 546.3104.

4.11.2. S-(2,3-O-Isopropylidene-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone-5-yl)-N-tert-butoxycarbonyl-l-homocysteine tert-butyl ester (16e)

Treatment of 15e (22 mg, 0.07 mmol) with homocysteinate salt, using the procedure reported in Section 4.11, gave 16e (20 mg, 48%): ¹H NMR δ 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.39 and 1.41 (2 × s, 2 × 9H, 2 × t-Bu), 1.75–1.89 (m, 1H, H₈), 1.95–2.05 (m, 1H, H₈’), 2.52–2.68 (m, 2H, H₇,7’), 2.85 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 3.20 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H, H₅’), 3.80 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.20–4.25 (m, 1H, H₉), 4.80 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H₃), 5.01 (br. d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, NH), 5.30 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H₂), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d,
$J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H, Ar); $^{13}$C NMR $\delta$ 25.9 and 26.5 (CMe$_2$), 28.1 (t-Bu), 28.4 (t-Bu), 28.9 (C7), 31.0 (C8), 43.9 (C5), 53.1 (C9), 55.4 (OCH$_3$), 77.16 (C2), 77.37 (C3), 81.6 (t-Bu), 82.6 (t-Bu), 90.2 (C4), 113.5 (CMe$_2$), 113.7, 126.7, 130.1, 156.2 (Ar), 155.8 (Boc), 171.2 and 172.0 (C1 and C10); HRMS (TOF-ESI) calcd for C$_{28}$H$_{41}$NO$_9$SNa$^+$ [M+Na]$^+$ 590.2394; found 590.2378.

### 4.12. General procedure for deprotection of 4-C-substituted S-ribosylhomocysteine lactones

Compound 16 (0.03 mmol) was stirred in TFA (2 mL) at 0°C for 1 h and then at ambient temperature for 3 h. H$_2$O (0.1 mL) was then added and stirring was continued for an additional 1 h. Volatiles were evaporated in vacuum below 30°C and the residue was coevaporated with MeCN (2 × 0.5 mL). The crude product was redissolved in deionized water (2.5 mL) and washed with CHCl$_3$ (2 × 1 mL). The aqueous layer was evaporated in vacuum below 30°C.

#### 4.12.1. S-(4-C-Hexyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone-5-yl)-l-homocysteine (17b)

Treatment of 16b (17 mg, 0.03 mmol) with TFA, using the procedure reported in Section 4.12, gave 17b (7 mg, 60%). This product was additionally purified by HPLC (CH$_3$CN/H$_2$O, 15:85; $t_R = 21.0$ min) to give 6.5 mg (55%) of 17b. $^1$H NMR (D$_2$O) $\delta$ 0.82 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H, H$_{8a}$), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H, H$_{2a}$–H$_{7a}$), 1.45–1.50 (m, 2H, H$_1a$), 1.87–2.00 (m, 1H, H$_8$), 2.05–2.12 (m, 1H, H$_{8'}$), 2.45–2.55 (m, 2H, H$_7$,$_7'$), 2.82 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H, H$_5$), 2.87 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H, H$_5'$), 4.20 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H, H$_3$), 4.21–4.23 (m, 1H, H$_9$), 4.72 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H, H$_2$); $^{13}$C NMR (D$_2$O) $\delta$ 15.01 (C$_6a$), 23.20, 23.56, 23.90, 29.20 (C$_2a$–C$_5a$), 27.3 (C$_7$), 29.73 (C$_8$), 32.10 (C$_1a$), 41.99 (C$_5$), 52.4 (C$_9$), 72.55 (C$_2$), 78.50 (C$_3$), 88.50 (C$_4$), 172.3 and 173.5 (C1 and C10); HRMS calcd for C$_{15}$H$_{27}$NO$_6$S$^+$ [M+Na]$^+$ 372.1451; found 372.1469.

#### 4.12.2. S-(4-C-Octyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone-5-yl)-l-homocysteine (17c)

**Step a.** Treatment of 15c (24 mg, 0.063 mmol) with homocysteine lithium salt, using the procedure reported in Section 4.11, gave 16c contaminated with protected homocysteine (∼1:1, 40 mg). Compound 16c had: $^1$H NMR $\delta$ 0.80 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H, H$_{8a}$), 1.20–1.25 (m, 12H, H$_{2a}$–H$_{7a}$), 1.26 (s, 3H, CH$_3$), 1.39 and 1.41 (2 × s, 2 × 9H, 2 × t-Bu), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H$_1a$), 1.75–1.89 (m, 1H, H$_8$), 1.9–2.0 (m, 1H, H$_8'$), 2.48–2.54 (m, 2H, H$_7$,$_7'$), 2.80–2.83 (m, 2H, H$_5$,$_5'$), 4.20–4.26 (m, 1H, H$_9$), 4.40 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H, H$_3$), 5.05 (br. d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H, NH), 5.15 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H, H$_2$).

**Step b.** Treatment of the crude 16c (∼1:1, 40 mg; *Step a*) with TFA (2 mL), using the procedure reported in Section 4.12, gave an oily residue that was partitioned between water and CHCl$_3$. The aqueous layer was evaporated in vacuum below 30°C and the residue (20 mg) was divided into two portions. Each portion of crude 17c was dissolved in deionized water/MeCN (2.5 mL, 19:1, v/v) and was injected into the Sep-Pak cartridge (C18 classic column). The columns were eluted with deionized water (5 mL), a second portion of deionized water (5 mL) and ethanol (5 mL). The combined water eluents contained mainly Hcy (TLC and $^1$H NMR), while the combined ethanol eluents were evaporated in vacuum to give 17c (5 mg, 21% from 15c): $^1$H NMR (MeOH-$d_4$) $\delta$ 0.82 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H, H$_{8a}$), 1.20–1.28 (m, 12H, H$_{2a}$–H$_{7a}$), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H$_1a$), 1.90–2.00 (m, 1H, H$_8$), 2.05–2.12 (m, 1H, H$_8'$),
2.55–2.65 (m, 2H, H7, H7'), 2.80 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 2.87 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H, H5'), 2.85 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, H3), 4.19–4.21 (m, 1H, H9), 4.75 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, H2); 13C NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 15.01 (C8a), 23.00, 23.50, 23.85, 29.00, 30.67, 30.51 (C2a–C7a), 27.40 (C7), 29.7 (C8), 32.07 (C1a), 39.86 (C5), 52.21 (C9), 71.54 (C2), 77.20 (C3), 84.59 (C4), 172.21 and 173.52 (C1 and C10); HRMS calcd for C17H31NNaO6S+ [M+Na]+ 400.1764; found 400.1783.

Note. By varying the reaction conditions different quantities of 2,3-O-isopropylidene-4-C-octyl-d-ribono-1,5-lactone were isolated during the column chromatography of the crude reaction mixture from step a: 1H NMR δ 0.88 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H8a), 1.25–1.32 (m, 12H, H2a–H7a), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.50 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.62–1.70 (m, 2H, H1a), 3.86 (m, 2H, H5, H5'), 4.60 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.85 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H, H3); 13C NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 14.23 (CH3, C8a), 22.76, 22.87, 29.29, 29.48, 29.91, 31.92 (C2a–C7a), 25.93 and 26.9 (CMe2), 35.47 (C1a), 63.45 (C5), 76.55 (C3), 80.07 (C2), 87.05 (C4), 114.57 (CMe2), 173.25 (C1); HRMS (TOF) m/z calcd for C16H28O5Na+ [M+Na]+ 323.1798; found 323.1805.

4.12.3. S-(4-C-4-Methoxyphenyl-D-ribono-1,4-lactone-5-yl)-l-homocysteine (17e)

Treatment of 16e (11.4 mg, 0.02 mmol) with TFA (1 mL), using the procedure reported in Section 4.12, gave 17e (5.6 mg, 75%): 1H NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 1.80–1.83 (m, 1H, H8), 1.90–1.92 (m, 1H, H8'), 2.50–2.65 (m, 2H, H7, H7'), 2.85 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.20 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH3O), 4.22–4.27 (m, 1H, H9), 4.60 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H2), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, Ar); 13C NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 27.33 (C7), 29.73 (C8), 41.37 (C5), 52.50 (C9), 55.33 (CH3O), 74.40 (C2), 78.20 (C3), 85.40 (C4), 117.20, 125.81, 127.00, 162.28 (Ar), 172.31, 173.49 (C1 and C10); HRMS calcd for C16H21NO7SNa+ [M+Na]+ 394.0931; found 394.0908.

4.13. General procedure for the reduction of lactones. Synthesis of 4-C-substituted S-ribozymocysteines 19

LiEt3BH (1M/THF, 0.045 mL, 0.045 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 0.02 mmol of 16 in CH2Cl2 (1 mL) or 17 in THF/CH2Cl2 (1:1; 1 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at −20°C for 30 min under N2 atmosphere. MeOH (0.5 mL) was then slowly added to quench the reaction and volatiles were evaporated in vacuum below 25°C. The residue for the protected products 18 was partitioned between CH2Cl2/NaHCO3, was washed with brine, dried (MgSO4) and was column chromatographed (75:25, hexane/EtOAc); whereas the residue for the deprotected product 19 was redissolved in deionized H2O/MeOH (4:1, 2.5 mL) and washed with CHCl3 (2 × 1 mL) and then the aqueous layer was evaporated in vacuum below 30°C. The 4-C-substituted SRH analogues 19 are somehow unstable and need to be manipulated with care but are stable when stored as powder or well-dried syrup in a refrigerator at 4°C for a month.

4.13.1. S-(5-Deoxy-4-C-hexyl-D-ribofuranos-5-yl)-l-homocysteine (19b)

Step a. Treatment of 16b (10.9 mg, 0.02 mmol) with LiEt3BH, using the procedure reported in Section 4.13, gave 2,3-O-isopropylidene-5-[(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-l-homocysteine tert-butyl ester]-4-C-hexyl-D-ribofuranose 18b (α/β, ∼ 1:9, 9.5 mg, 90%). The major β anomer had: 1H NMR δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a),
1.35 and 1.41 (2 × s, 2 × H9, 2 × t-Bu), 1.35 (s, 6H, 2 × CH3), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 1.91–2.02 (m, 2H, H8,8'), 2.48–2.58 (m, 2H, H7,7'), 2.60 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 2.94 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.19–4.21 (m, 1H, H9), 4.30 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H3), 4.92 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.19–5.21 (m, 1H, NH), 5.35 (s, 1H, H1). The minor α anomer had a peak for H1 at δ 5.47 (d, J = 3.9 Hz). Step b. Treatment of 18b (α/β, ~1:9; 9.5 mg, 0.02 mmol) with in TFA (1 mL), using the procedure reported in Section 4.12, gave 19b (α/β, ~1:9; 4 mg, 75%). The major β anomer had: 1H NMR (D2O) δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H6a), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H, H2a–H5a), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 1.91–2.01 (m, 2H, H8,8'), 2.48–2.58 (m, 2H, H7,7'), 2.63 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 2.94 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.12 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.19–4.21 (m, 1H, H9), 4.20 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.33 (s, 1H, H1); MS (ESI) m/z 350 (MH−). HRMS calcd for C15H29NO6SNa+ [M+Na]+ 374.1608, found 374.1617.

4.13.2. S-(5-Deoxy-4-C-octyl-D-ribofuranos-5-yl)-l-homocysteine (19c)

Treatment of 17c (6 mg, 0.01 mmol) with LiEt3BH (0.03 mL), using the procedure reported in Section 4.13, gave 19c (α/β, ~1:3; 4 mg, 60%). The major β anomer had: 1H NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 0.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H8a), 1.21–1.32 (m, 12H, H2a–H7a), 1.50–1.60 (m, 2H, H1a), 1.9–2.0 (m, 2H, H8,8'), 2.48–2.58 (m, 2H, H7,7'), 2.79 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 2.90 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H5'), 4.15 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.19–4.21 (m, 1H, H9), 4.20 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.19–5.21 (m, 1H, NH), 5.39 (s, 1H, H1), [the minor α anomer had a peak for H1 at δ 5.44 (d, J = 3.5 Hz)]; 13C NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 15.01 (C8a), 23.00, 23.50, 23.85, 29.00, 30.67, 30.51 (C2a–C7a), 27.3 (C7), 29.6 (C8), 32.07 (C1a), 41.99 (C5), 50.51 (C9), 69.77 (C3), 72.09 (C2), 87.16 (C4), 99.90 (C1), 172.62 (C10); HRMS calcd for C17H33NO6SNa+ [M+Na]+ 402.1921, found 402.1933.

4.13.3. S-(5-Deoxy-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-D-ribofuranos-5-yl)-l-homocysteine (19e)

Step a. Treatment of 16e (11.3 mg, 0.02 mmol) with LiEt3BH, using the procedure reported in Section 4.13, gave 2,3-O-isopropylidene-5-[(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-l-homocysteine tert-butyl ester]-4-C-4-methoxyphenyl-D-ribofuranose 18e (α/β, ~1:9; 7.8 mg, 68%). The major β-anomer had: 1H NMR δ 1.35 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH3), 1.39 and 1.41 (2 × s, 2 × H9, t-Bu), 1.75–1.89 (m, 1H, H8), 1.95–2.05 (m, 1H, H8'), 2.48–2.54 (m, 2H, H7,7'), 3.01 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.20 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH3O), 4.20–4.25 (m, 1H, H9), 4.65 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H3), 4.85 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H2), 5.01 (d, J = 8.1 Hz 1H, NH), 5.40 (s, 1H, H1), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), [the minor α-anomer had a peak for H1 at δ 5.60 (d, J = 3.8 Hz)]; HRMS calcd for C28H43NO9SNa+ [M+Na]+ 592.2551, found 592.2522. Step b. Treatment of 18e (α/β, ~1:9; 7.6 mg, 0.013 mmol) with in TFA (1 mL), using the procedure reported in Section 4.12, gave 19e (α/β, ~1:9; 3.7 mg, 77%). The major isomer had: 1H NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 1.90–2.00 (m, 2H, H8,8'), 2.48–2.58 (m, 2H, H7,7'), 3.01 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H, H5), 3.20 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H, H5'), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH3O), 4.15 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.19–4.25 (m, 1H, H9), 4.40 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.45 (s, H1, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H, Ar); 13C NMR (MeOH-d4) δ 27.51 (C7), 29.70 (C8), 52.52 (C9), 55.33 (CH3O), 42.20 (C5), 72.61 (C3), 74.40 (C2), 85.40 (C4), 101.10 (C1), 117.20, 125.81, 127.00, 162.28 (Ar), 172.3 (C10). HRMS calcd for C16H23NO7SNa+ [M+Na]+ 396.1087, found 396.1062.
Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Funding

This work was partially supported by NIGMS/NCI [1SC1CA138176]. We thank the NIH MARC U*STAR (GM083688) program for the fellowship to DL and University of Wroclaw and EU social funds for supporting KSS and JN summer internship training at FIU.

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References

[11] The boric acid required for the complexation of DPD is available in biosphere (e.g., the concentration of boric acids in sea water is approximately 0.4 mM) (Ref. 12).


[27] Since substrate 6 and products 12–19 are derivatives of D-ribose, for consistency the nomenclature for the ribitol synthetic intermediates 7–11, including 1H and 13C NMR assignments, are using ribose carbon numbering as showed in structure for 7/8. It is noteworthy that ribitols 7/8 and 10/11 can be treated as either D or L sugars (no reference point to classify them), while ketone 9 is L sugar.


[32] The γ-lactones should provide SRH analogues with different rate of ring opening comparing to natural SRH (hemiacetal) as observed with 4-aza-SRH analogue (azahemiacetal) and the corresponding γ-lactam (Ref. 16).


[35] Detritylation and derivatization of the similar C-substituted lactones was noted to be challenging most probably due to the crowded nature of the ribose skeleton (Ref. 24).


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