Short Communications

Separation of the Silylated Reduction Products from α-D-Glucoisosaccharinic Acid by GLC

RAIMO ALÉN and EERO SJÖSTRÖM

Laboratory of Wood Chemistry, Helsinki University of Technology, SF-02150 Espoo 15, Finland

In the cellulose industry enormous quantities of hydroxy acids are formed as waste from wood polysaccharides, especially during kraft pulping. One of the main base-catalyzed degradation products of cellulose and glucosanans is 3-deoxy-2-C-hydroxymethyl-D-pentonic acid (glucoisosaccharinic acid). We now have separated and identified the silylated reduction products of the corresponding 3-deoxy-2-C-hydroxymethyl-D-erythro-pentono-1,4-lactone (I).

\[
\begin{align*}
1 & \text{R} = \text{H} \\
2 & \text{R} = \text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3 \\
3 & \text{R} = \text{H} \\
4 & \text{R} = \text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3 \\
5 & \text{R} = \text{H} \\
6 & \text{R} = \text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3 \\
7 & \text{R} = \text{H} \\
8 & \text{R} = \text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3
\end{align*}
\]

Sodium borohydride reduction of I resulted in a mixture which after silylation and gas chromatography was resolved into six peaks (Table I). The compounds identified originated from the furanoid (3) and pyranoid (5) deoxy-sugar derivatives as well as deoxyalditol (7) in the approximate weight proportions 5:1:5:1. Compound 7 can also be prepared from the epimeric three-form since the asymmetric centre at C-2 disappears after reduction.

The mass spectra of peaks A and C are practically identical, indicating a pair of diastereomers. Besides the typical fragmentation ([M - CH$_2$(15)]$^+$ (m/e 437), [M - (CH$_3$)$_3$SiOH(90)]$^+$ (m/e 362), [M - (CH$_3$)$_3$SiOCH$_3$(103)]$^+$ (m/e 349), [M - 15 - 90]$^+$ (m/e 347), [M - 118]$^+$ (m/e 334) and [M - 103 - 90]$^+$ (m/e 259) ion peaks, these spectra show a strong ion peak at m/e 231, the formation of which has already been recognized in furanoid TMS derivatives. The mass spectra of peaks B and D are also practically identical, and in addition to some of the above-mentioned typical fragmentations, they show significant m/e 218, 204, 203, 191 and 116 ion peaks, which are either characteristic for pyranoid TMS derivatives or can easily be derived from the expected structure. From the mass spectrum of peak E are observed [M - 103]$^+$ (m/e 423), [M - 15 - 90]$^+$ (m/e 421), [M - 103 - 90]$^+$ (m/e 333) and [M - 103 - 2 x 90]$^+$ (m/e 243), all of which are ion peaks indicative of the TMS derivative of the corresponding deoxyalditol (8). The cleavage of the carbon chain and the loss of trimethylsilylanol from these fragments yield ion peaks at m/e 307, 217, 205 and 129. In this case close fragmentation analogies have been reported. Peak F corresponds to the TMS derivative of the starting material (2), and the most characteristic ion peak of its mass spectrum is at m/e 348, originating from a McLafferty-type rearrangement. The last two peaks (E and F) also had identical retention times with the corresponding model substances (8 and 2), and the structures were further supported by other spectral data (1H NMR, IR).

Experimental. Apparatus. GLC separations were performed after silylation on a Perkin-Elmer 900 instrument equipped with a differential FID and using a stainless steel column (3.175 mm x 6 m) packed with 3 % silicone oil (DC QF-1) on 80-100 mesh Chromosorb W-HMDS. Nitrogen was used as carrier gas (20 ml/min) and the temperature program was 60 - 180°C at 2.5°C/min. The peak areas were measured with a Hewlett-Packard 3380 A electronic integrator. For GLC-MS the compounds were injected into a Perkin-Elmer 270 B instrument (70 eV) fitted with the same column as that used for GLC. The carrier gas was helium. 1H NMR spectra were recorded on a Jeol JNM-PMX 60 spectrometer and IR spectra on a Perkin-Elmer 457 spectrometer using KBr pellets. Specific rotations were measured in water at room temperature with a Perkin-Elmer 141 polarimeter.

Trimethylsilylation. For the GLC analysis, the compounds (about 20 mg) were evaporated to dryness and silylated with a ready-made mixture of pyridine, hexamethyldisilazane and trimethylchlorosilane (10:2:1) (1 - 2 ml). The solution was warmed to 50 - 60°C and allowed

0302-4369/79/090693-02802.50 © 1979 Acta Chemica Scandinavica
to stand at room temperature for 30 min before
injection.

Materials. 3-Deoxy-2-C-hydroxymethyl-D-d-
erythro-pentono-1,4-lactone (I) was prepared from
lactose,7 m.p. 94—95°C (uncorr.), [α]D81
+ 62.8° (c 1.0). (Ref. 7, m.p. 95—96°C, [α]D58
+ 62°). IR: 3330, 1780 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃—
CF₃COOD): δ 5.38—4.78 (1 H, m, 4.63 (2 H,
d), 4.00 (2 H, s), 2.62—2.30 (2 H, m).

The fully trimethylsilylsubstituted lactone (2)
was prepared by silylation of I as described
above, and was gas chromatographically pure
MS [m/e (% rel. int.)]: 378 (< 1, M), 363 (2),
348 (37), 273 (5), 245 (19), 217 (12), 147 (39),
129 (26), 117 (26), 103 (31), 73 (100).

Reduction of I to sugars using sodium borohydride
resulted in a colourless syrup, whose
IR spectrum lacked a strong carbonyl band at
1780 cm⁻¹. After silylation the mass spectra of
the gas chromatographic peaks were; (A & C), 4,
MS [m/e (% rel. int.)]: 452 (1 < 1, M), 437 (< 1),
362 (1 < 1), 349 (8), 347 (6), 334 (20), 259 (34),
244 (43), 231 (85), 218 (21), 204 (20), 191 (22),
147 (45), 133 (10), 129 (21), 117 (20), 103 (27),
73 (100). (B & D), 6, MS [m/e (% rel. int.)]:
452 (3, M), 362 (1), 349 (5), 347 (4), 334 (13), 218
(91), 204 (21), 203 (14), 191 (44), 163 (18), 147
(46), 129 (12), 117 (10), 116 (13), 73 (100). (E),
8, see below. (F), 2, see above. ¹H NMR spectral
data for 3 were obtained from the syrup. ¹H
NMR (D₂O): δ 5.23 (1 H, s), 5.07—4.73 (1 H,
m), 4.12 (2 H, d), 3.87 (2 H, s), 2.38 (2 H, d).

3-Deoxy-2-C-hydroxymethyl-D-glycero-pentitol
(7). I was reduced to the alditol using sodium
borohydride. The procedure was repeated three
times resulting in a colourless syrup that con-
tained 7.5 % impurities, as estimated from the
areas of its TMS derivative on the gas chromato-
gram. IR: 3380, 1050 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (D₂O):
δ 4.28—3.87 (1 H, m), 4.07 (4 H, s), 3.57 (2 H,
d), 1.82 (2 H, d).

The fully trimethylsilylsubstituted pentitol
(8) was prepared by silylation of 7 as described
above. MS [m/e (% rel. int.)]: 423 (< 1), 421
(< 1), 333 (20), 307 (11), 243 (100), 217 (18),
205 (31), 147 (39), 129 (38), 117 (8), 103 (23),
73 (96).

Acknowledgements. The financial support of
Neste Oy foundation and Raf. Haarla foundation
is gratefully acknowledged. We are grateful to
Docent Göran Petersson, Chalmers University
of Technology, Göteborg, for discussions
concerning the mass spectra.

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Received July 26, 1979.