Supporting Information

For

Reactivity of Damaged Pyrimidines: Formation of a Schiff Base Intermediate at the Glycosidic Bond of Saturated Dihydrouridine

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Abbreviations used

Abbreviations for NMR signal coupling are as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; m, multiplet.

General Methods

All reagent grade chemicals were purchased from Sigma, Fisher, or VWR and used without further purification. The 1 H NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker 500 MHz NMR Fourier transform spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded in d_4 -methanol, with residual methanol (δ 3.31 ppm for 1 H NMR and δ 49.0 ppm for 13 C NMR), in d_6 -dimethyl sulfoxide, with residual dimethyl sulfoxide (δ 2.50 ppm for 1 H NMR and δ 39.5 ppm for 13 C NMR), or in deuterated water (D₂O), with residual H₂O (δ 4.79 ppm for 1 H NMR) taken as standards. The chemical shifts on NMR spectra were reported in parts per million (ppm).

HPLC analysis was performed at room temperature with a Waters (Milford, MA) breeze HPLC system coupled to a 2489 UV/Visible detector at 230 nm, while an Agilent ZORBAX Bonus-RP column (5 μ m particle size, 250 \times 4.6 mm i.d.) was used for separation. Semi-preparative HPLC was performed at room temperature with the same Waters HPLC setup and an XBridgeTM OST C18 column (2.5 μ m particle size, 50 \times 10 mm i.d.). The LC/MS and MS/MS analyses were conducted via the Agilent 6520 Accurate Mass Q-TOF LC/MS spectrometer.

Preparation of dHdU isomerization products

200 mg dHdU was dissolved in 0.1 M HCl and the reaction was allowed to proceed for 8 hours at ambient temperature. HPLC analysis reveals that four products, including three dHdU isomers 2, 3 and 4 were formed. The products were separated via semi-preparative HPLC. Briefly, an XBridgeTM OST C18 column (2.5 μ m particle size, 50 × 10 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (10 mM ammonium acetate aqueous solution, pH 7.0); compounds were eluted with an ascending gradient (0% ~ 5%) of acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 4.73 mL/min. The four isomers including dHdU were eluted at 11.0 (2), 14.0 (dHdU), 14.7 (3), and 17.0 (4) min respectively. The compounds were desalted by reinjection into HPLC using H₂O-acetonitrile as elution buffers, then dried by rotary evaporation to afford isomer 2 (30 mg, colorless oil), 3(18 mg, colorless oil), and 4 (23 mg, colorless oil) respectively.

2: ¹H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 1.65-1.70 (m, 1H, H₂), 2.07 (q, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H, H_{2"}), 2.61 (dd, J = 1.4, 6.5 Hz, 1H, H₅), 2.63 (dd, J = 2.4, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H₅), 3.50 (ddd, J = 6.2, 8.0, 12.8 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.62 (ddd, J = 6.0, 6.9, 12.8 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.63 (dd, J = 1.0, 12.7 Hz, 1H, H_{5"}), 3.67-3.70 (m, 1H, H₄), 3.84 (ddd, J = 3.2, 4.7, 11.7 Hz, 1H, H_{3'}), 3.95 (dd, J = 2.1, 12.7 Hz, 1H, H_{5'}), 5.43 (dd, J = 2.2, 11.4 Hz, 1H, H_{1'}); ¹³C NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 32.0, 32.4, 37.5, 68.4, 69.6, 70.2, 81.6, 154.7, 172.8; ESI-MS (positive ion) calcd for C₉H₁₅N₂O₅⁺: (M + H⁺) 231.0975, found 231.0972.

dHdU: ¹H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 1.98 (ddd, J = 3.2, 6.4, 13.5, 1H, H_{2"}), 2.19 (ddd, J = 6.6, 7.9, 13.5 Hz, 1H, H_{2'}), 2.56-2.67 (m, 2H, H₅),3.41 (ddd, J = 5.6, 8.2, 12.6, 1H, H₆), 3.57 (ddd, J = 6.2, 6.8, 12.5 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.62 (dd, J = 4.6, 11.9 Hz, 1H, H_{5"}), 3.68 (dd, J = 4.0, 11.9 Hz, 1H, H_{5'}), 3.77 (dd, J = 4.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H, H_{4'}), 4.25-4.30 (m, 1H, H_{3'}), 6.26 (dd, J = 6.4, 8.0 Hz, 1H, H_{1'}); ¹³C NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 31.9, 36.9, 37.5, 63.3, 72.4, 85.3, 87.4, 154.9, 172.9; ESI-MS (positive ion) calcd for C₉H₁₅N₂O₅⁺: (M + H⁺) 231.0975, found: 231.0969.

3: ¹H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 1.93 (ddd, J = 5.0, 5.0, 10.0, 1H, H_{2°}), 2.52 (ddd, J = 7.1, 7.2, 14.1 Hz, 1H, H₂), 2.63 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H, H₅), 3.52 (dd, J = 5.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H, H_{5°}), 3.56-3.67 (m, 3H, H_{5°} and H₆), 4.00 (dd, J = 4.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H, H₄), 4.29 (ddd, J = 4.1, 4.3, 6.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3°}), 6.16 (dd, J = 5.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H, H₁); ¹³C NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 32.0, 37.4, 39.1, 63.4, 72.2, 86.1, 88.6, 154.9, 173.0; ESI-MS (positive ion) calcd for C₉H₁₅N₂O₅⁺: (M + H⁺) 231.0975, found: 231.0975. 4: ¹H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 1.81 (ddd, J = 2.4, 3.8, 13.8Hz, 1H, H_{2°}), 2.52 (ddd, J = 2.4, 11.2, 13.6 Hz, 1H, H₂), 2.60 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, H₅), 3.40-3.53 (m, 2H, H₆), 3.63-3.71 (m, 2H, H₄ and H_{5°}), 3.75-3.81 (m, 1H, H₅), 4.11-4.15 (m, 1H, H₃), 5.84 (dd, J = 2.2, 11.4 Hz, 1H, H₁); ¹³C NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 32.0, 35.3, 37.4, 66.8, 68.0, 68.4, 78.4, 154.7, 172.8; ESI-MS (positive ion) calcd for C₉H₁₅N₂O₅⁺: (M + H⁺) 231.0975, found: 231.0973.

dHdU isomerization reaction at 90 °C in a pH 7.4 buffer dHdU was dissolved in 200 μ L pH 7.4 sodium phosphate buffer containing 150 mM NaCl to a final concentration of 85 mM. The solution was heated to 90 °C using a PCR device with a cap heating function to minimize water evaporation. At various reaction times, 5 μ L solution was aliquotted out, immediately frozen in liquid N₂, and saved in -20 °C freezer for future HPLC analysis. In HPLC analysis,

briefly, an Agilent ZORBAX Bonus-RP column (5 μ m particle size, 250 \times 4.6 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (10 mM ammonium acetate aqueous solution, pH 7.0); compounds were eluted with an ascending gradient (0% \sim 5%) of acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. Under such a condition, 1 (5,6-dihydrouracil), 2 , dHdU, 3 and 4 eluted at 8.6, 11.0, 14.0, 14.7, and 17.0 min respectively.

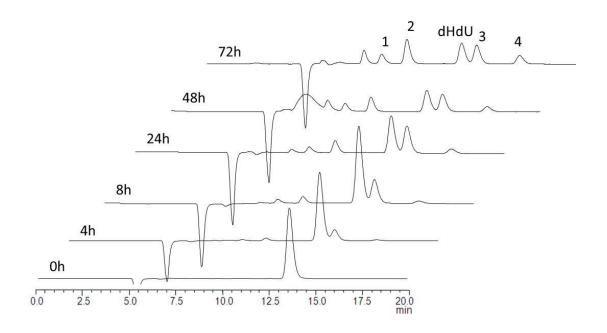


Figure S1. HPLC chromatogram (monitored at 230 nm) of the dHdU isomerization reaction in a pH 7.4 buffer at 90°C for 72 hrs.

Isomerization of 2'-deoxyuridine (dU) and thymidine (T) at pH 1 dU and T were dissolved respectively in 200 μ L 0.1 M HCl to a final concentration of 85 mM. The resulting solutions were kept at room temperature for ~ 3 days. At various times, 5 μ L of the reaction solution was aliquotted out, immediately frozen in liquid N₂ and saved in -20 °C freezer for future HPLC analysis. In HPLC analysis, an Agilent ZORBAX Bonus-RP column (5 μ m particle size, 250 × 4.6 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (10 mM ammonium acetate aqueous solution, pH 7.0). For dU isomerization reaction, an ascending gradient (0% ~ 5%) of

acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 1 mL/min was used and dU was eluted at 10.3 min. For T isomerization reaction, an ascending gradient (0% ~ 20%) of acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 1 mL/min was used and T was eluted at 11.4 min. No product was observed in either reaction.

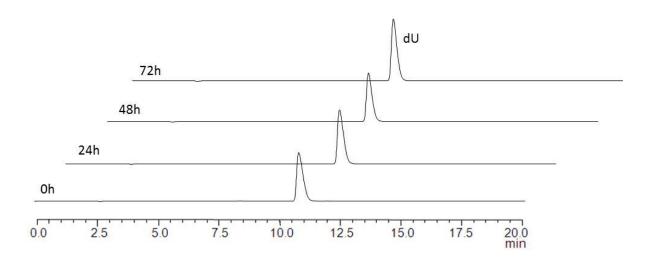


Figure S2. HPLC chromatogram (monitored at 230 nm) of the dU isomerization reaction in the presence of 0.1 M HCl at ambient temperature for 72 hrs.

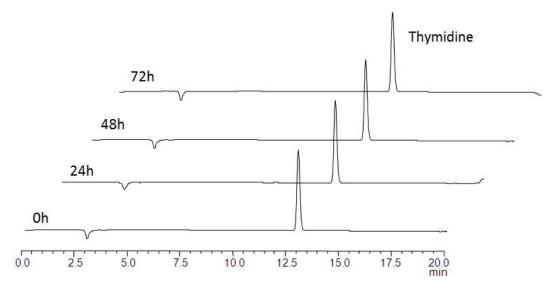


Figure S3. HPLC chromatogram (monitored at 230 nm) of the **T** isomerization reaction in the presence of 0.1 M HCl at ambient temperature for 72 hrs.

Isomerization of dU and T at 90 °C in a pH 7.4 buffer dU and T were dissolved respectively in 200 μ L pH 7.4 sodium phosphate buffer containing 150 mM NaCl to a final concentration of 85 mM. The solution was heated to 90 °C using a PCR device with a cap heating function to minimize water evaporation. At various reaction times, 5 μ L solution was aliquotted out, immediately frozen in liquid N₂, and saved in -20 °C freezer for future HPLC analysis. In HPLC analysis, briefly, an Agilent ZORBAX Bonus-RP column (5 μ m particle size, 250 × 4.6 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (10 mM ammonium acetate aqueous solution, pH 7.0). For dU isomerization reaction, an ascending gradient (0% ~ 5%) of acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 1 mL/min was used; uracil and dU were eluted at 5.1 and 10.3 min respectively. For T isomerization reaction, an ascending gradient (0% ~ 20%) of acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 1 mL/min was used; thymine and T were eluted at 8.3 and 11.4 min respectively. No isomers of dU or T were observed.

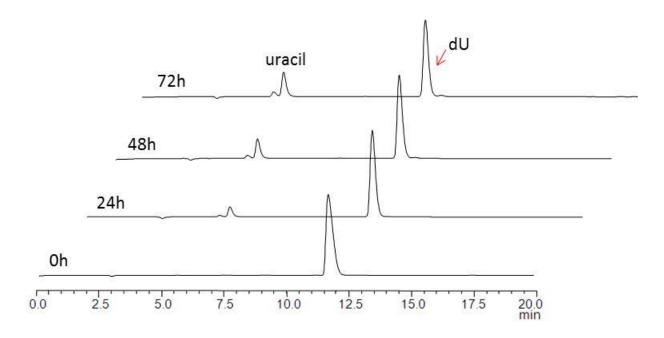


Figure S4. HPLC chromatogram (monitored at 230 nm) of the **dU** isomerization reaction in a pH 7.4 buffer at 90°C for 72 hrs.

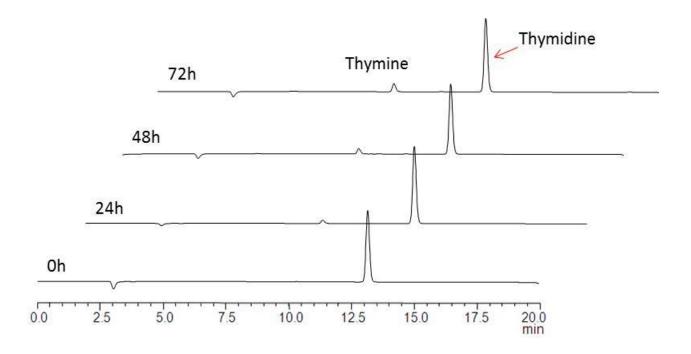


Figure S5. HPLC chromatogram (monitored at 230 nm) of the **T** isomerization reaction in a pH 7.4 buffer at 90°C for 72 hrs.

Preparation of compound 5

dHdU (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) was dissolved in 0.1 M HCl in MeOH:H₂O (1:1, v/v) solution to a final concentration of 5 mM (44 mL); 50 mg Pd-C was then added to the solution. The resulting suspension was stirred under 1 atm H₂ for 8 days at ambient temperature. At various time points, 5 μ l of the reaction mixture was extracted, and immediately analyzed by HPLC until ~85% dHdU was consumed. After removing the Pd-C catalyst by filtration, the product was purified by semi-preparative HPLC. Briefly, an XBridgeTM OST C18 column (2.5 μ m particle size, 50 × 10 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (10 mM ammonium acetate aqueous solution, pH 7.0). Compounds were eluted with an ascending gradient (0% ~ 5%) of acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 4.73 mL/min. The dHdU Schiff base hydrogenation product 5 was eluted at 6.1 min. After removing solvent via rotary evaporation, 5 was obtained as a white solid (38 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 1.58-1.67 (m, 1H), 1.98-2.08 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.73 (m,

2H), 3.44-3.58 (m, 5H), 3.59-3.68 (m, 2H), 3.73 (dd, J = 3.9, 11.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (methanol- d_4): $\delta 31.81$, 31.87, 43.4, 45.6, 64.7, 70.9, 76.3, 155.3, 173.1; ESI-MS (positive ion) calcd for $C_9H_{17}N_2O_5^+$: (M + H⁺) 233.1132, found: 233.1129.

Nucleophilic addition reaction between cysteine and dHdU dHdU was dissolved in H_2O to a final concentration of 85mM. To this solution, 75-fold cysteine HCl was added followed by the addition of 1 N HCl to adjust the pH to 3. The resulting solution was allowed to react at 37 °C. At various times, 5 μ l of the reaction mixture was extracted, and immediately analyzed by HPLC. Briefly, an Agilent ZORBAX Bonus-RP column (5 μ m particle size, 250 × 4.6 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (10 mM triethylamine-Acetic Acid aqueous solution, pH 7.0); compounds were eluted with an ascending gradient (0% ~ 5%) of acetonitrile in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The cysteine-dHdU adducts 6 and 7, and dHdU deglycosylation product 1, were eluted at 6.3, 7.1, and 8.7 min respectively.

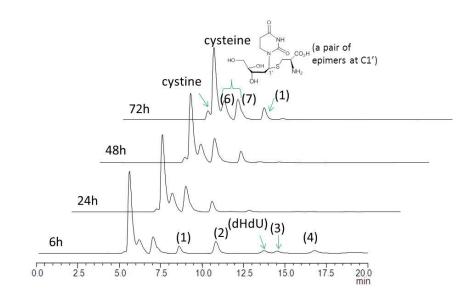


Figure S6. HPLC chromatogram (monitored at 230 nm) of Schiff base intermediate-mediated nucleophilic addition reaction between cysteine and dHdU at 37 °C for 72 hrs.

Preparation of compounds 8 and 9

dHdU (20 mg, 85μ mol) was dissolved in H_2O to a final concentration of 60 mM. To this solution, 3-mercaptopropionic acid $HSCH_2CH_2CO_2H$ (75X) was added. The resulting solution was kept at $60^{\circ}C$ for 24 h. 5 μ l of the reaction mixture was extracted and immediately analyzed by HPLC to confirm that 85% of the dHdU added has reacted.

The resulting mixture was then purified by preparative HPLC. Briefly, an XBridgeTM OST C18 column (2.5 μ m particle size, 50 × 10 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (triethylamine-Acetic Acid aqueous solution, pH 7.0). Compounds were eluted with an ascending gradient (0% ~ 5%) of acetonitrile in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 2.37 mL/min. Under such a condition, **dHdU-MPA** adducts **8** and **9** were eluted at 15.8 and 16.4 min respectively. After removing solvent via rotary evaporation, **8** (10 mg, 30%) and **9** (18 mg, 56%) were obtained both as colorless gel.

8: ¹H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 1.66(ddd, J = 3.5, 9.8, 14.6 Hz, 1H, H₂·), 2.14 (dd, J = 12.5, 14.6 Hz, 1H, H₂·), 2.42 (ddd, J = 7.5, 7.5, 15.3 Hz, 1H, H_b), 2.52 (ddd, J = 6.3, 8.0, 14.1 Hz, 1H, H_b), 2.61-2.76 (m, 3H, H_c and H₅), 2.80 (ddd, J = 6.2, 8.0, 13.1 Hz, 1H, H_c), 3.34 (ddd, J = 5.3, 8.7, 13.1 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.37-3.44 (m, 2H, H₃· and H₄·), 3.57 (dd, J = 5.4, 11.2 Hz, 1H, H₅·), 3.66 (dd, J

= 6.7, 12.5 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.68 (dd, J = 3.2, 11.0 Hz, 1H, H₅), 5.97 (dd, J = 3.1, 11.9 Hz, 1H, H₁); ¹³C NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 28.4, 31.8, 36.8, 37.0, 38.7, 57.8, 64.5, 69.9, 75.9, 155.5, 172.8, 179.7; ESI-MS (negative ion) calcd for C₁₂H₁₉N₂O₇S(M–H)⁻: 335.0918, found: 335.0916;

9: ¹H NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 1.70 (ddd, J = 6.0, 9.7, 11.2 Hz, 1H, H₂), 2.07 (ddd, J = 2.5, 8.9, 11.5 Hz, 1H, H_{2'}), 2.40-2.55 (m, 2H, H_b), 2.61-2.77 (m, 3H, H_a and 2 H₅), 2.80 (ddd, J = 6.8, 6.8, 13.0 Hz, 1H, H_a), 3.37-3.44 (m, 2H, H_{4'} and H₆), 3.56 (dd, J = 6.3, 11.3Hz, 1H, H_{5'}), 3.65-3.75 (m, 3H, H_{3'}, H_{5'} and H₆), 5.94 (dd, J = 6.1, 8.9 Hz, 1H, H_{1'}); ¹³C NMR (methanol- d_4): δ 28.3, 31.9, 37.5, 37.8, 38.5, 59.2, 64.6, 71.0, 76.4, 154.9, 172.9, 179.5; ESI-MS (negative ion) calcd for C₁₂H₁₉N₂O₇S(M–H)⁻: 335.0918, found: 335.0916.

dHT isomerization reaction dHT was dissolved in 200 μ L 0.1 M HCl to a final concentration of 85 mM. The resulting solution was kept at room temperature for ~ 3 days. At various times, 5 μ L of the reaction solution was aliquotted out, immediately frozen in liquid N_2 and saved in -20 °C freezer for future HPLC analysis. For HPLC analysis, briefly, an Agilent ZORBAX Bonus-RP column (5 μ m particle size, 250 × 4.6 mm i.d.) was equilibrated with buffer A (10 mM ammonium acetate aqueous solution, pH 7.0). Compounds were eluted with an ascending gradient (0% ~ 5%) of acetonitrile (buffer B) in 20 minutes at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. The four isomers of dHT were eluted at 8.8 (10), 10.8 (dHT), 11.6 (11), and 14.1 (12) min respecitively. These products were characterized by MS/MS analysis.

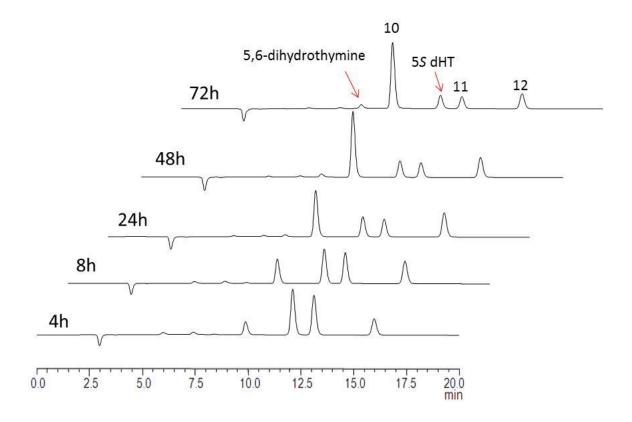


Figure S7. HPLC chromatogram (monitored at 230 nm) of the **dHT** isomerization reaction in the presence of 0.1 M HCl at ambient temperature for 72 hrs.

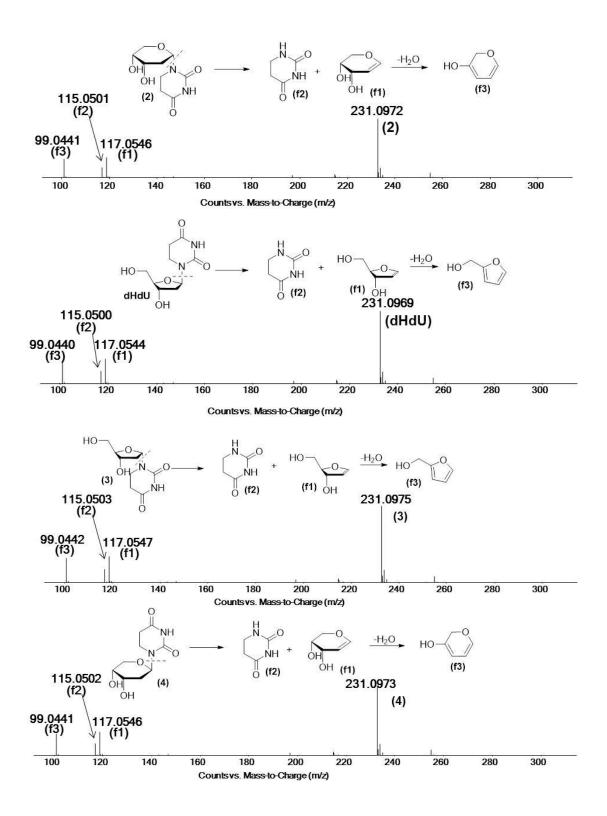


Figure S8. MS-MS spectra and the fragment structures of compounds 2, dHdU, 3 and 4 under positive ion mode.

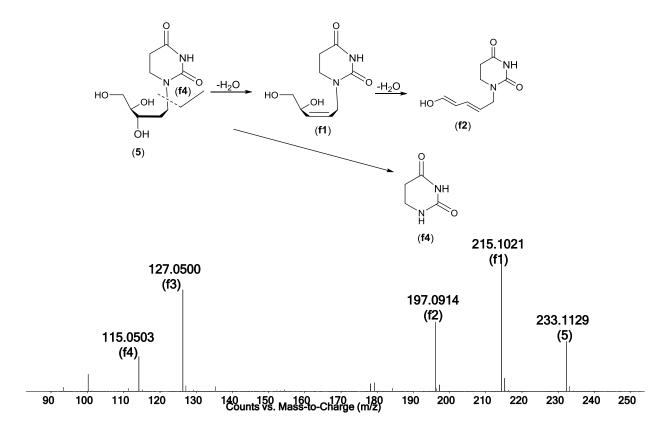


Figure S9. MS-MS spectrum and the fragment structures of compound 5 under positive ion mode.

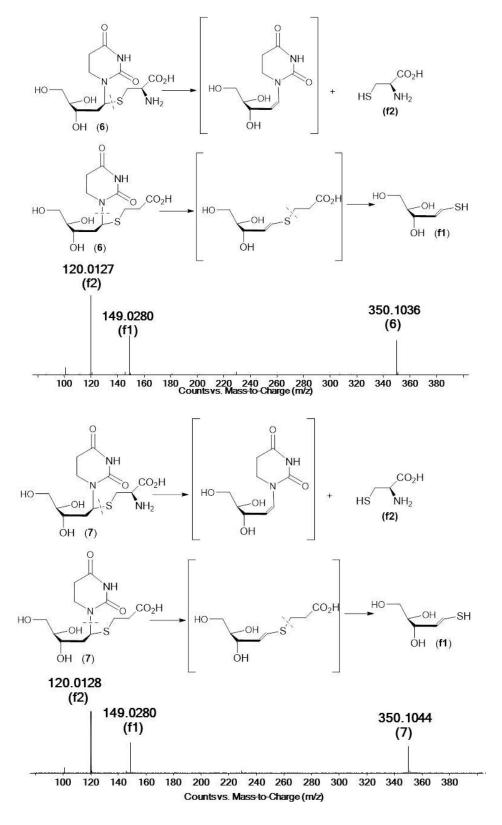


Figure S10. MS-MS spectrum and fragment structures of compounds 6 and 7 under negative ion mode.

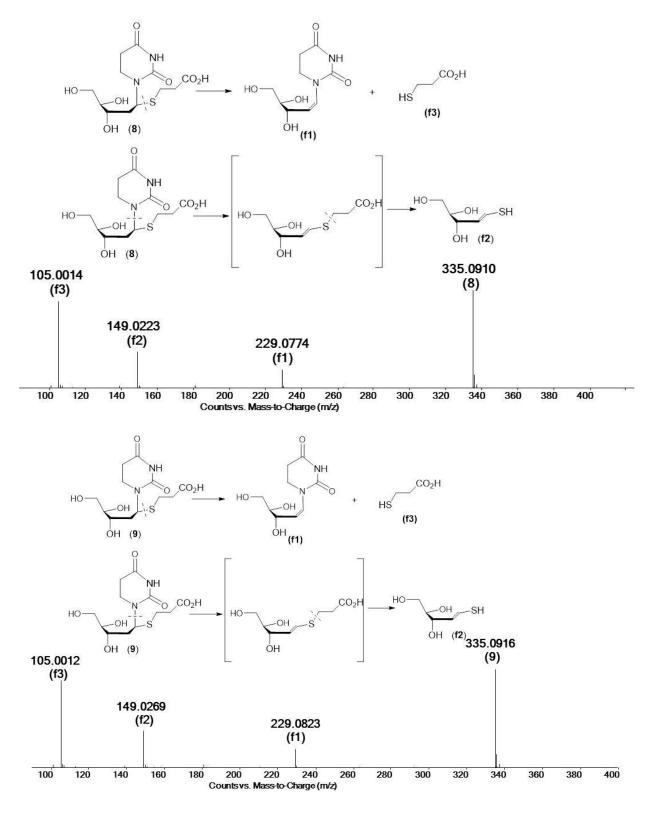


Figure S11. MS-MS spectrum and fragment structures of compounds 8 and 9 under negative ion mode.

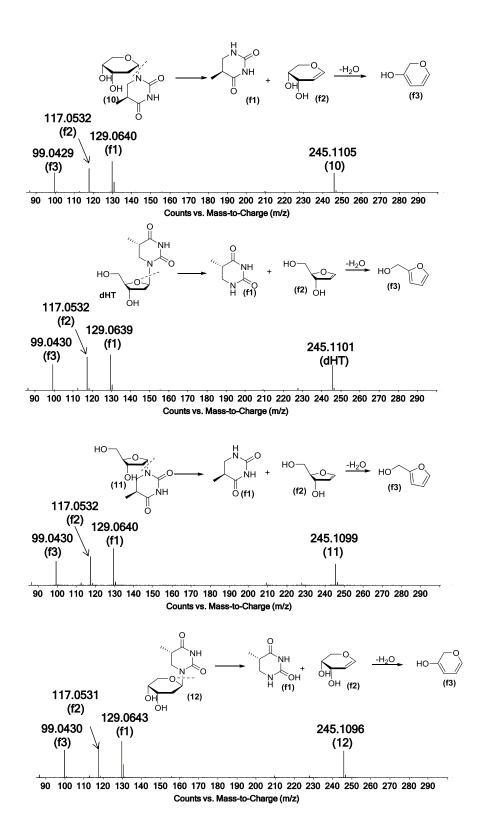
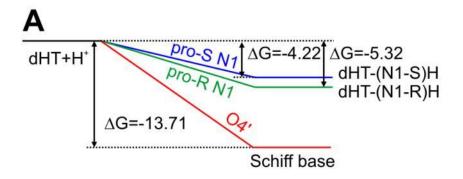


Figure S12. MS/MS spectrum and the fragment structures of dHT and its 3 isomers (formed under acidic conditions) under positive ion mode.



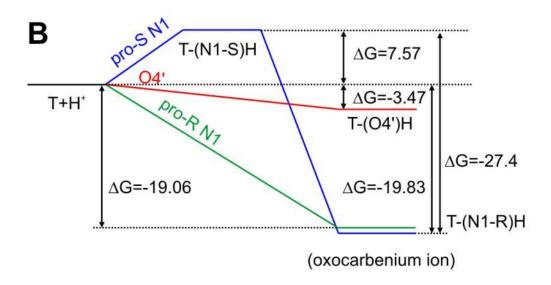


Figure S13. (A) Gibbs Free Energy changes (kcal/mol) for dHT protonation and decomposition. The N1 protonation may result in two putative species (N1-R)H and (N1-S)H, which are much higher in Gibbs Free Energy than the (O4')H, suggesting that in dHT, protonation at O4' is preferred. The (O4')H re-arranges into a Schiff base species via a barrier-free decomposition during the structure optimization. (B) Gibbs Free Energy changes (kcal/mol) for T protonation and decomposition. The N1-R protonation is preferred, the resulting (N1-R)H is unstable, which decays into the oxocarbenium ion via a barrier-free transformation process. In contrast, the T-(O4')H is much higher in Gibbs Free Energy, implying that T deglycosylation is mediated by the oxocarbenium ion pathway via (N1-R)H. The putative (N1-S)H intermediate however is found to be metastable as a local minimum on the potential energy surface. The (N1-S)H pathway however is considered to be irrelevant to the oxocarbenium ion formation because of the high Gibbs Free Energy barrier en route to (N1-S)H.

Table S1. Rate constants (\times 10⁻⁹ s⁻¹) for the formations of **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** in the dHdU isomerization reaction determined via HPLC integration. The respective rate constants at 37 °C and pH 7.4 were then deduced from the Arrhenius plots below.

Temperature	1	2	3	4
70	26.5	267	1.69×10^{3}	115
75	31.3	395	2.51×10^{3}	190
80	51.3	673	3.55×10^{3}	299
85	105	1.07×10^{3}	6.22×10^{3}	585
90	126	1.68×10^{3}	9.72×10^{3}	919
<u>37</u>	0.819	6.98	53.6	1.86

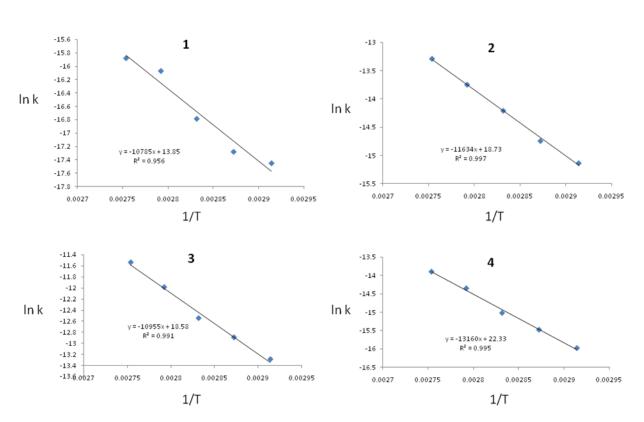


Figure S14. Arrhenius plots for the formations of 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the dHdU isomerization reaction (lnk vs 1/T).

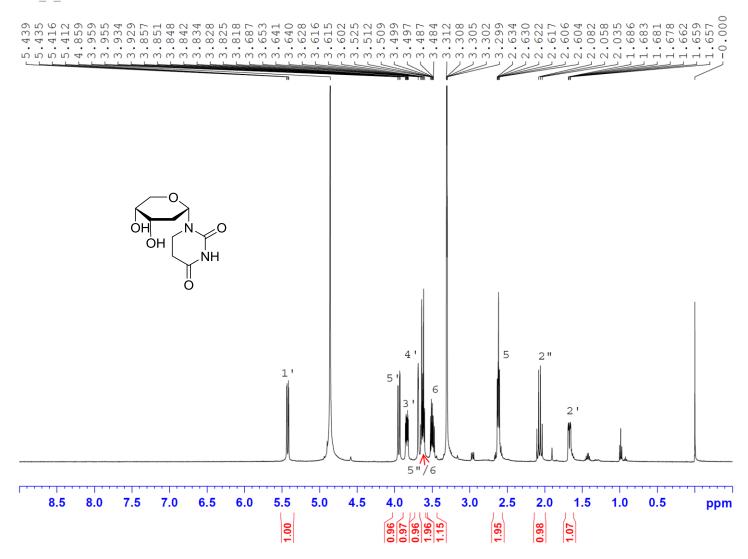


Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 2.

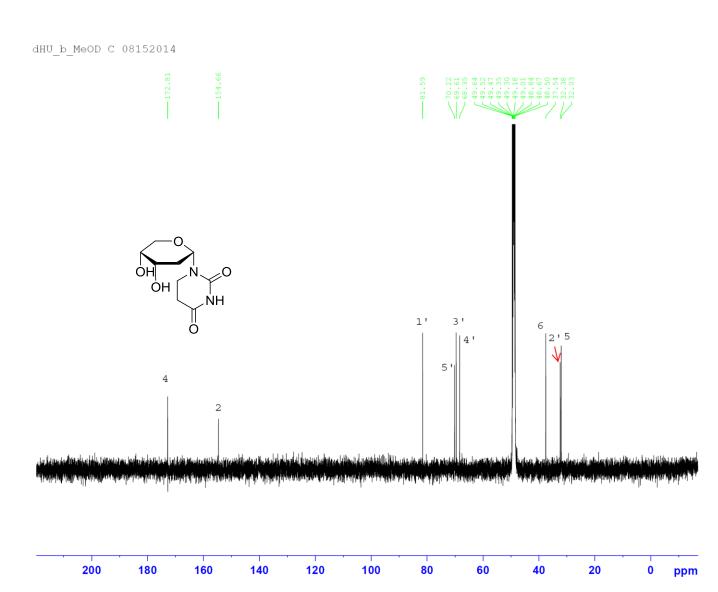


Figure S16. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **2**.

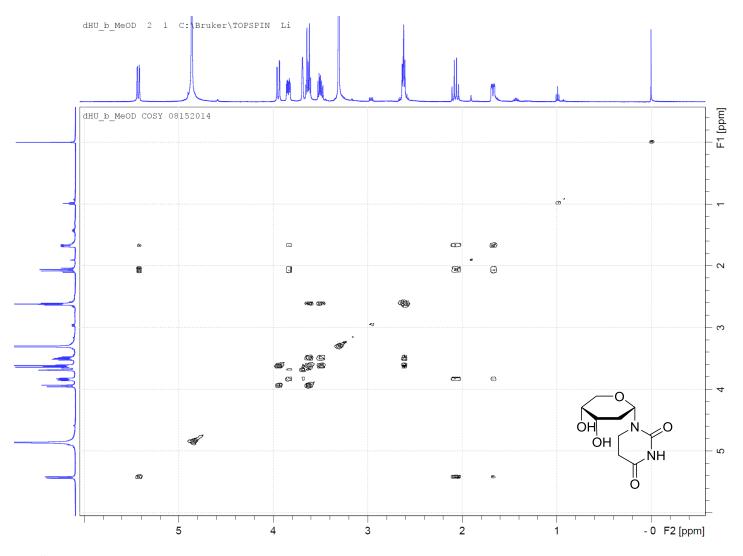


Figure S17. COSY spectrum of compound 2.

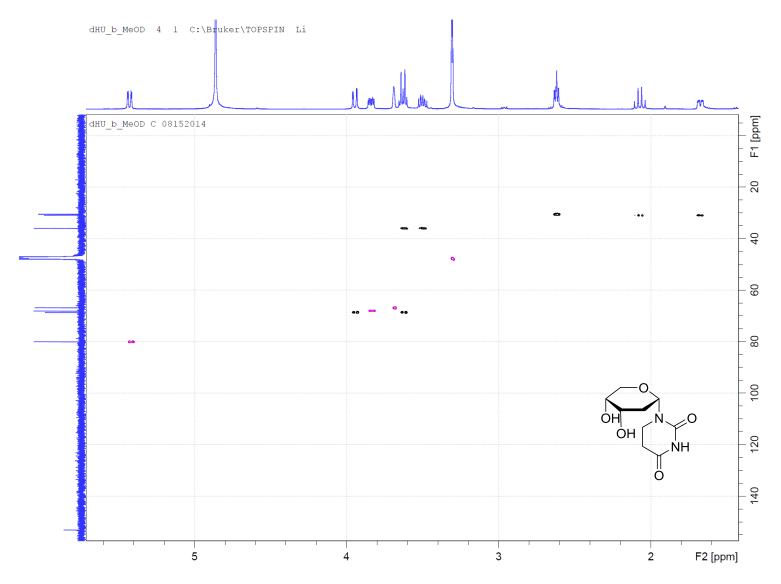


Figure S18. HSQC spectrum of compound **2**.

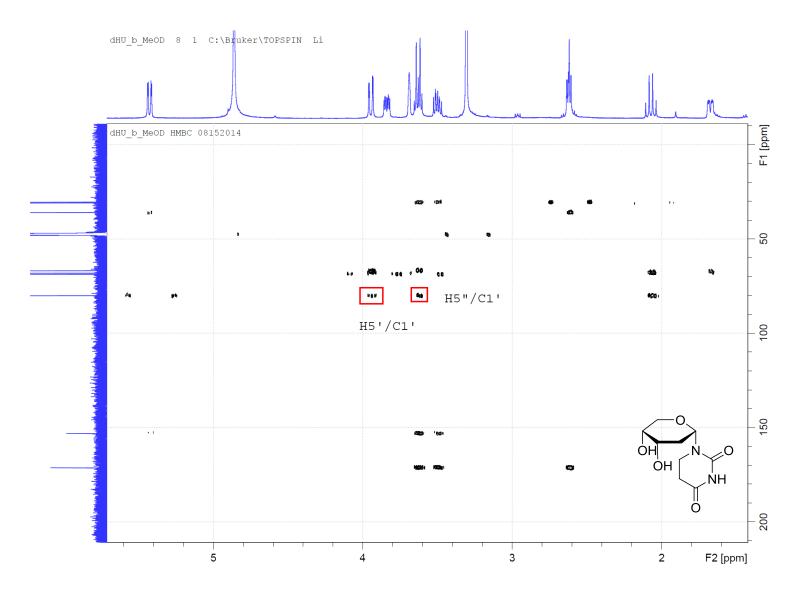


Figure S19. HMBC spectrum of compound **2**.

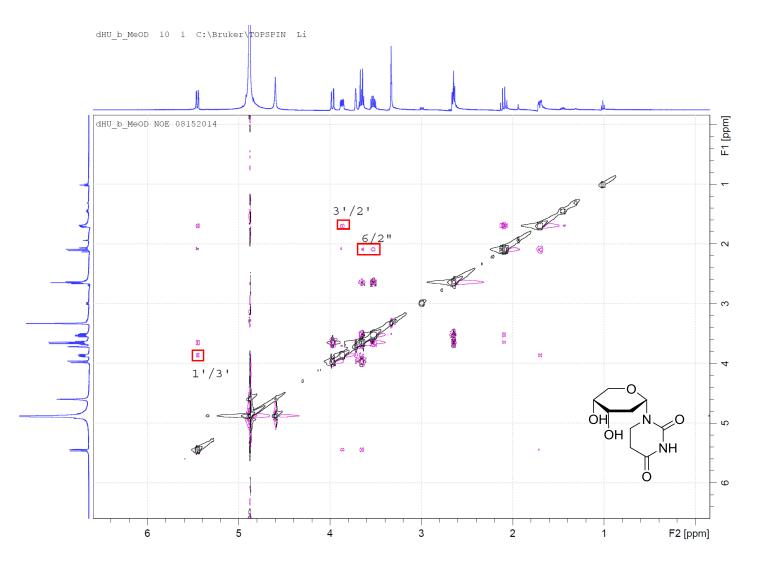


Figure S20. NOE spectrum of compound **2**.

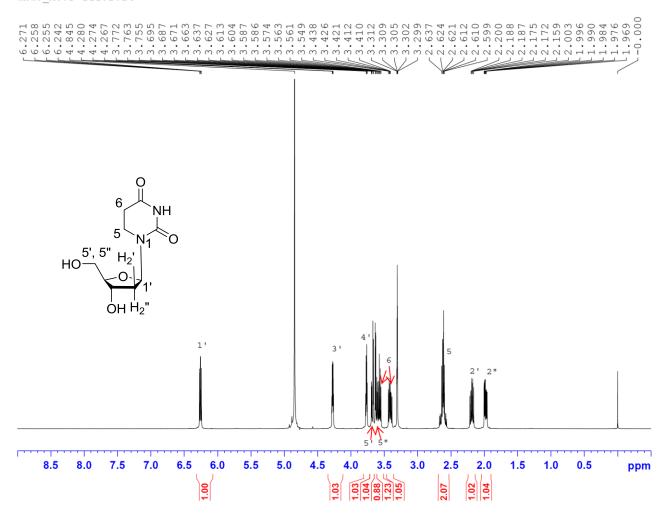


Figure S21. ¹H NMR spectrum of **dHdU**.

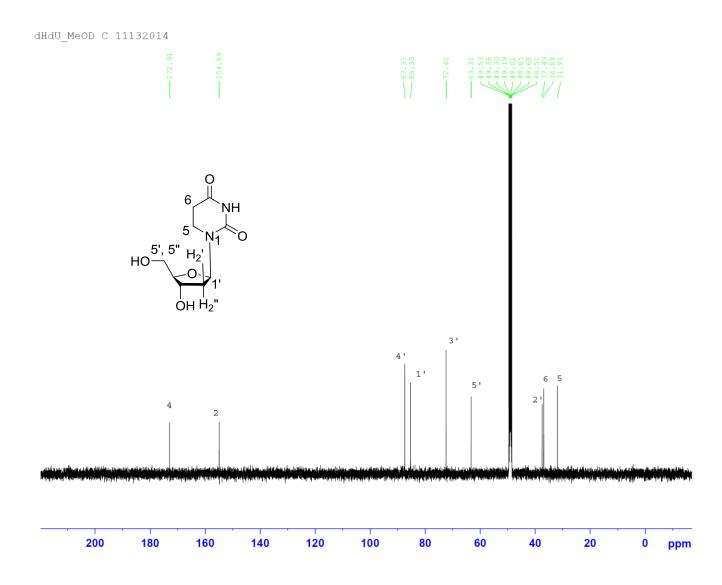


Figure S22. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **dHdU**.

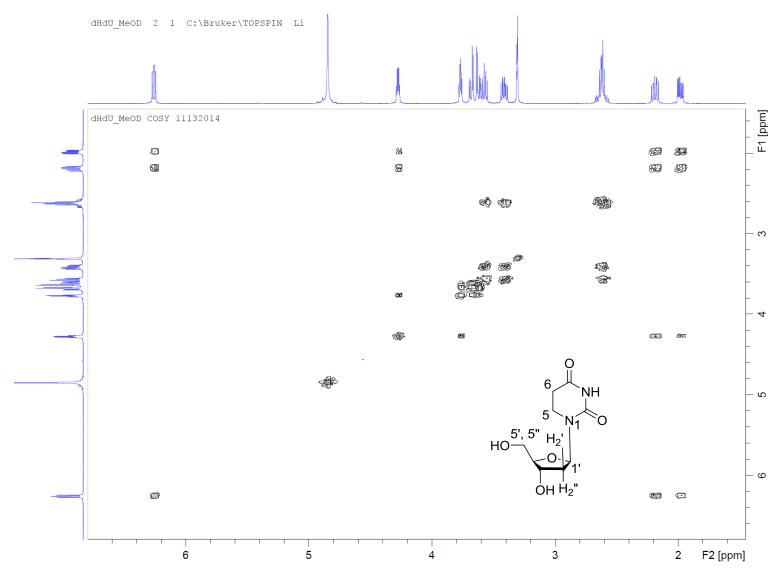


Figure S23. COSY spectrum of dHdU.

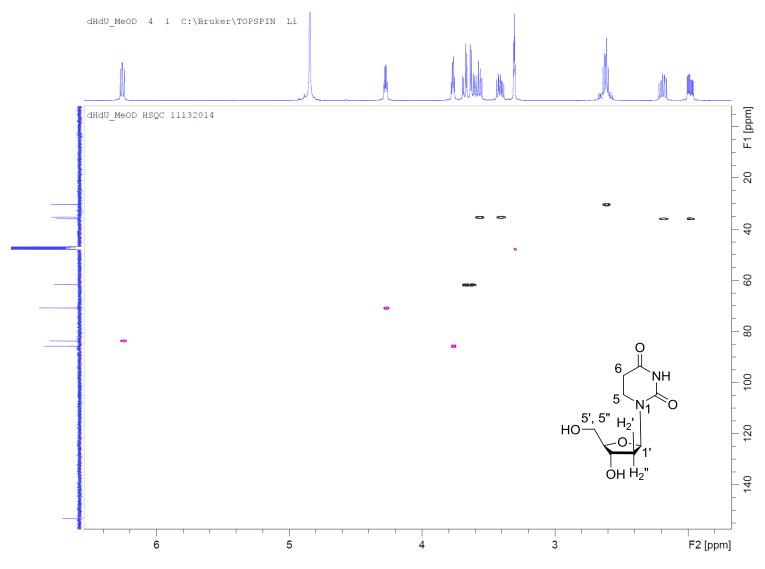


Figure S24. HSQC spectrum of dHdU.

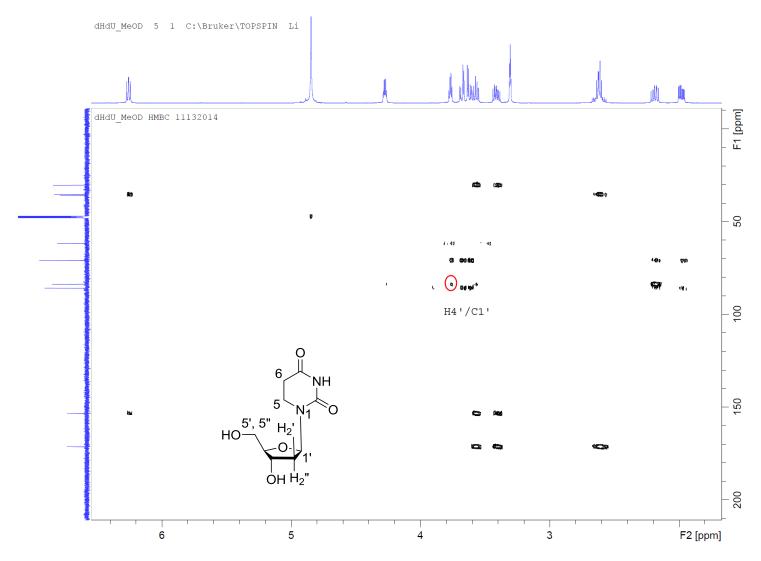


Figure S25. HMBC spectrum of dHdU.

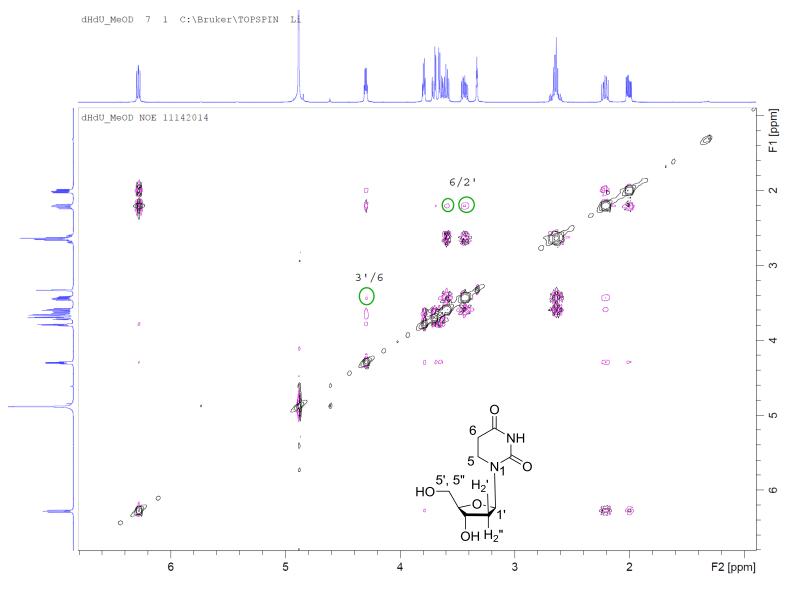


Figure S26. NOESY spectrum of dHdU.

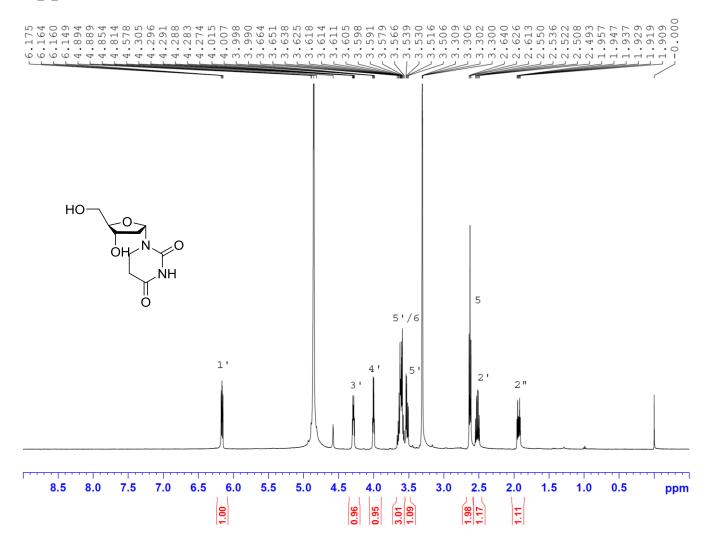


Figure S27. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **3**.

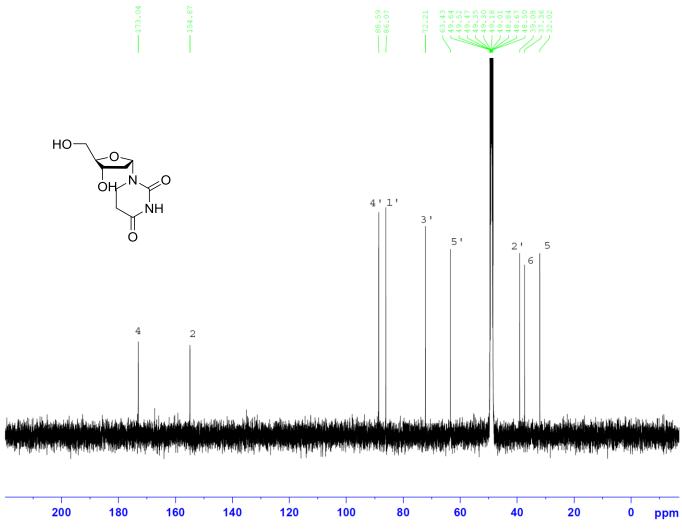


Figure S28. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **3**.

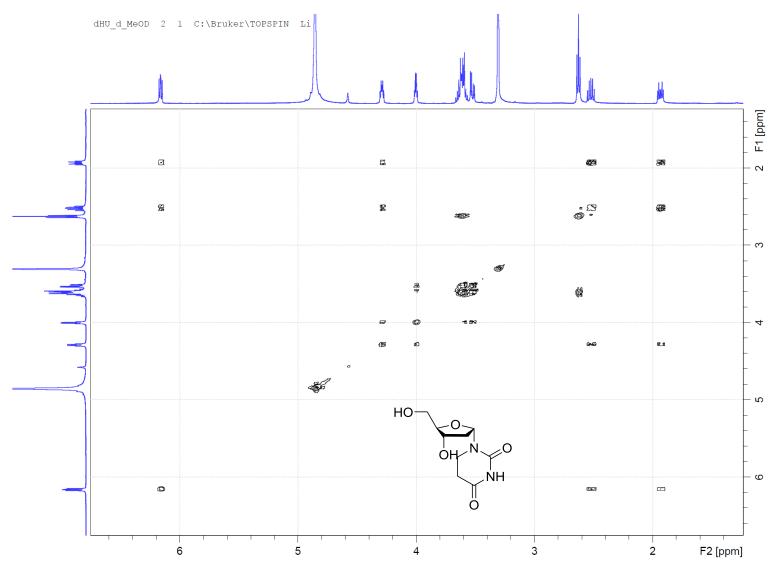


Figure S29. COSY spectrum of compound **3**.

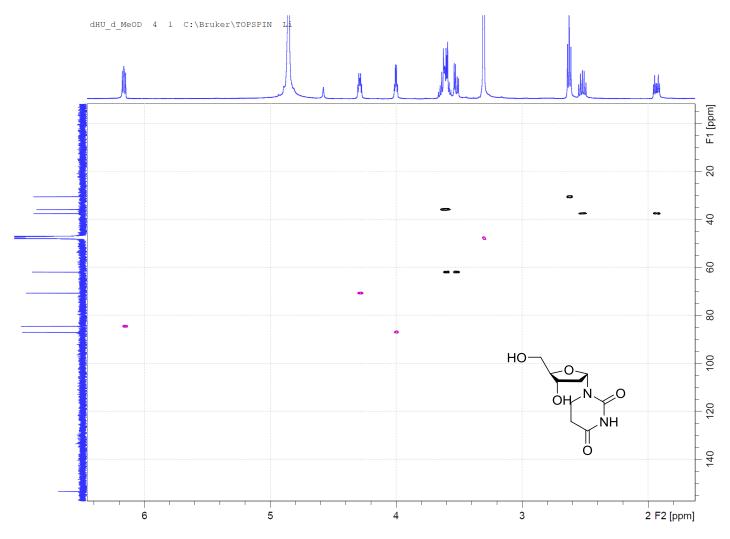


Figure S30. HSQC spectrum of compound **3**.

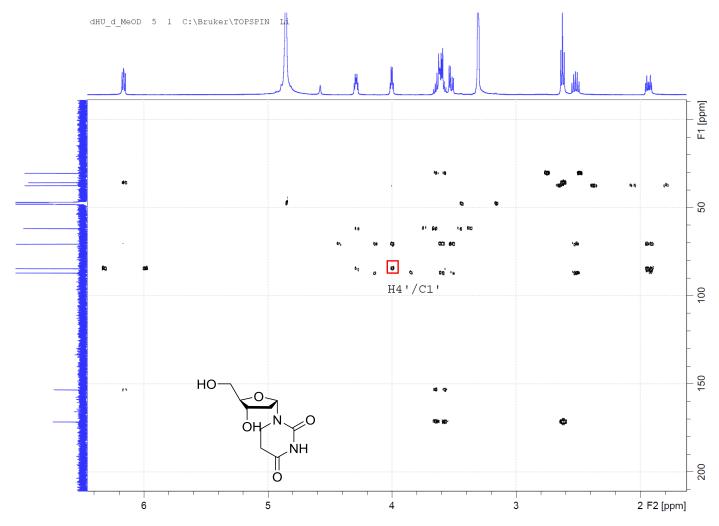


Figure S31. HMBC spectrum of compound **3**.

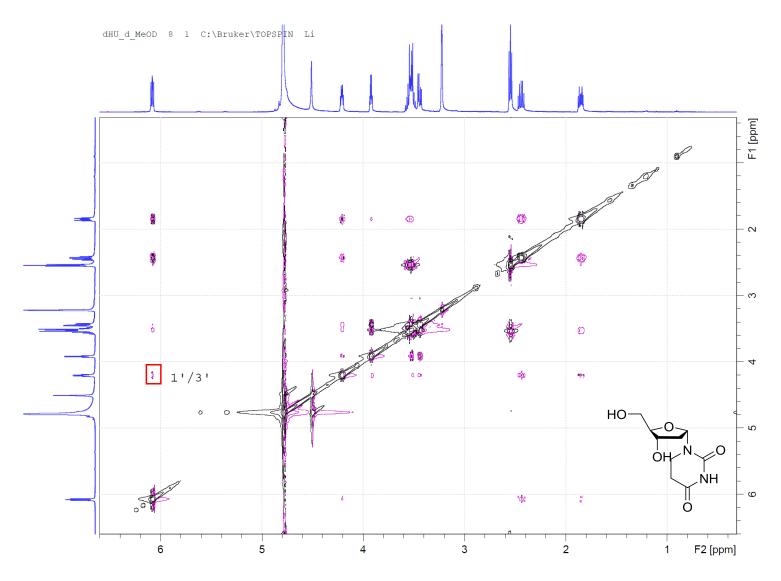


Figure S32. NOESY spectrum of compound **3.**

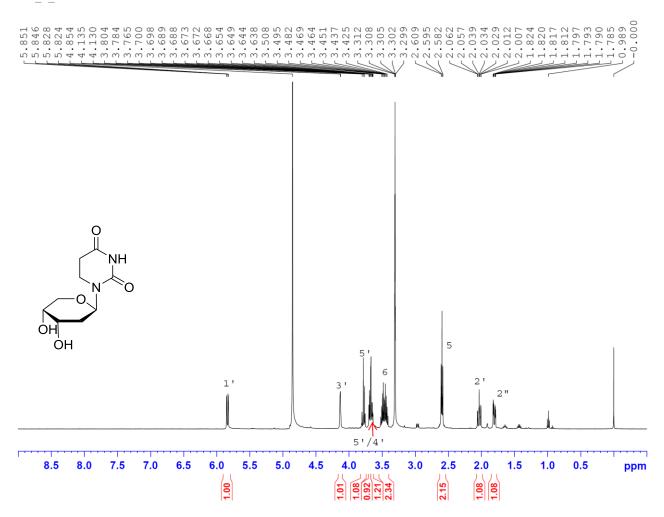


Figure S33. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 4.

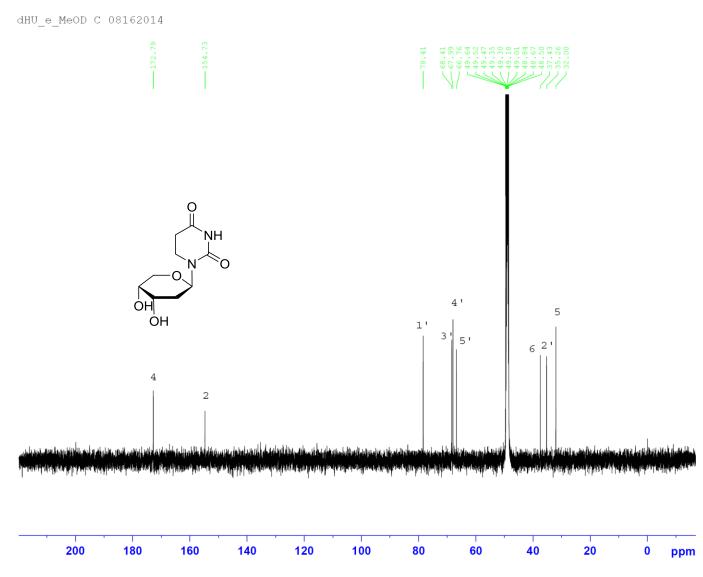


Figure S34. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **4**.

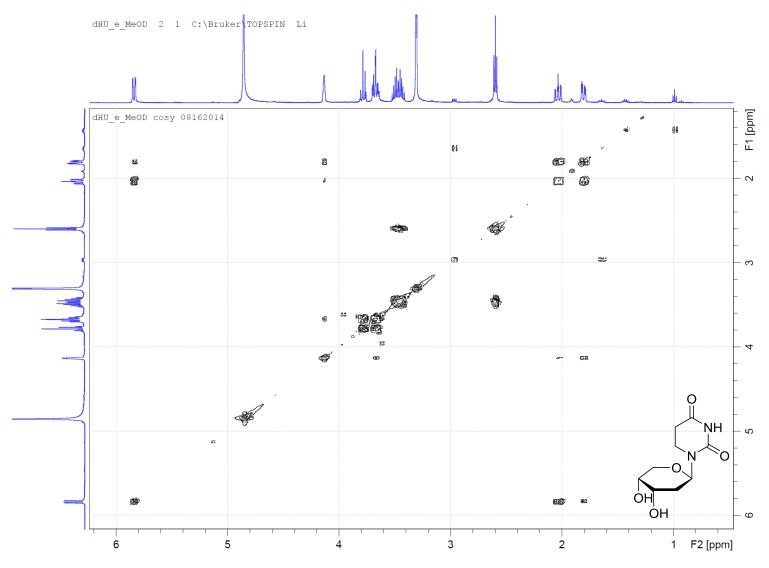


Figure S35. COSY spectrum of compound 4.

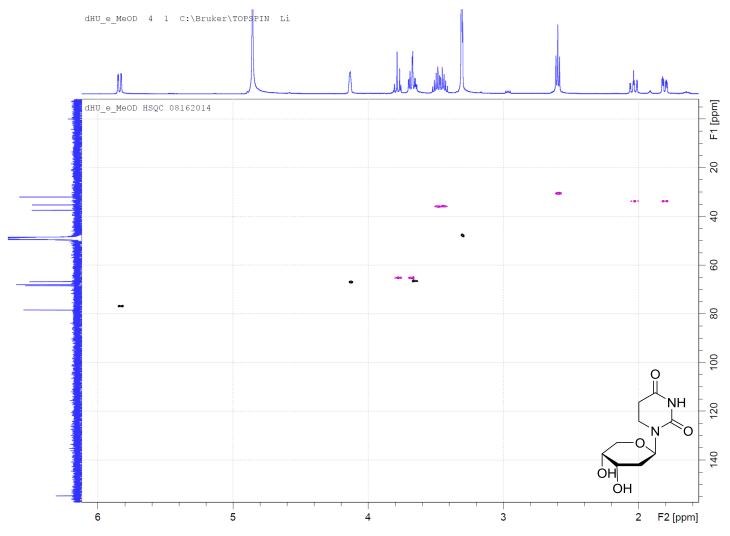


Figure S36. HSQC spectrum of compound **4**.

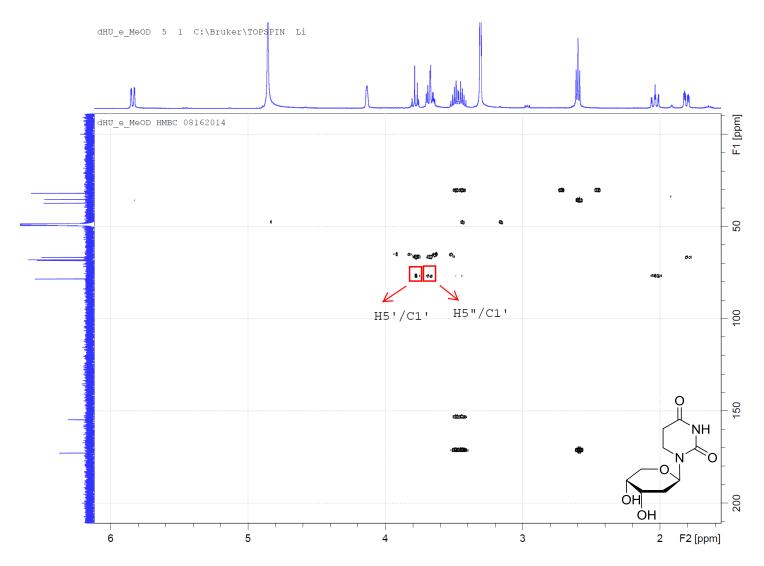


Figure S37. HMBC spectrum of compound **4**.

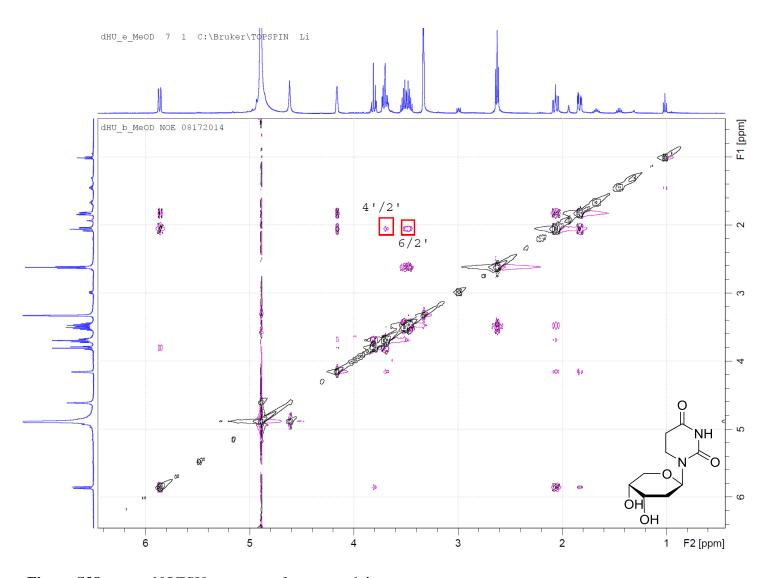


Figure S38. NOESY spectrum of compound **4**.

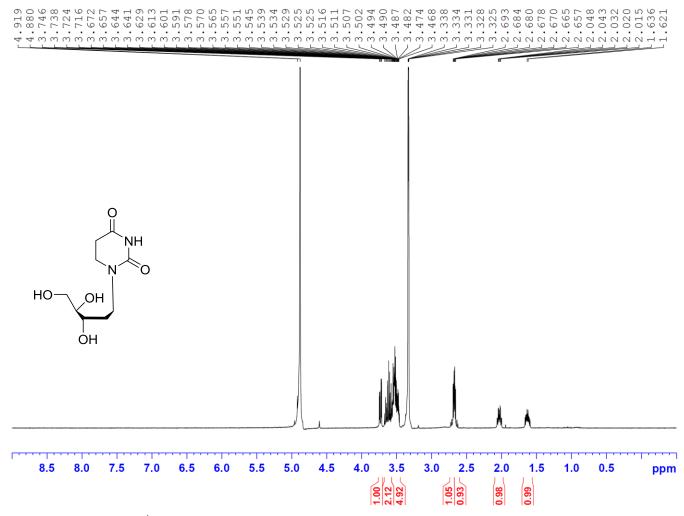


Figure S39. 1 H NMR spectrum of compound **5** in Methanol- d_4 .

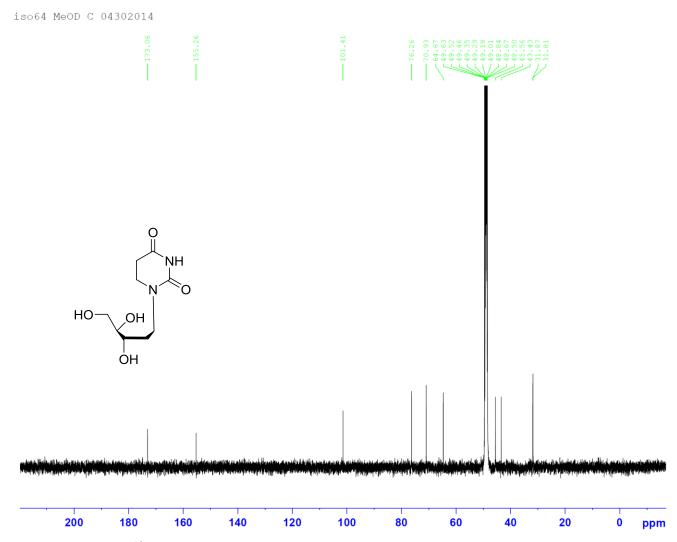


Figure S40. 13 C NMR spectrum of compound **5** in Methanol- d_4 .

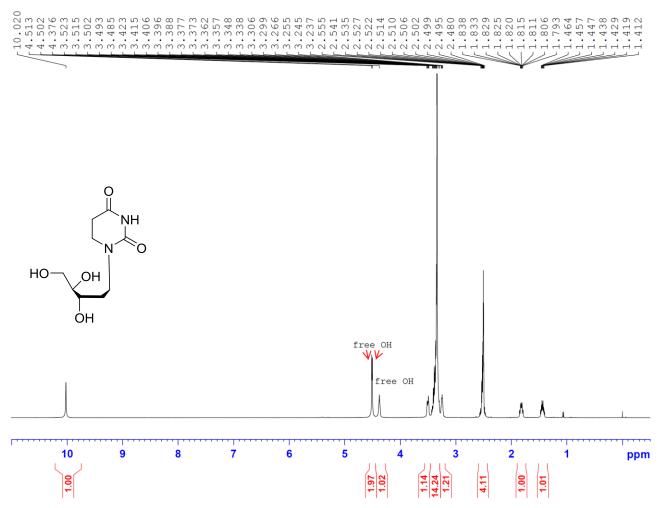


Figure S41. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **5** in DMSO- d_6 .

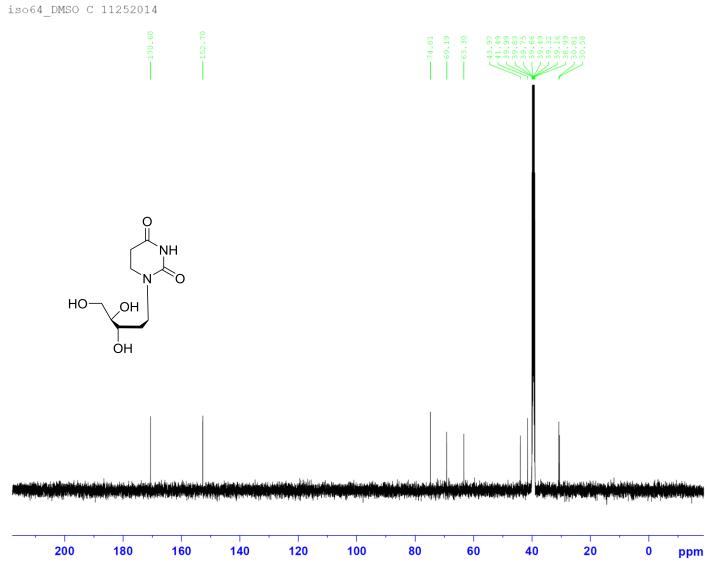


Figure S42. 13 C NMR spectrum of compound **5** in DMSO- d_6 .

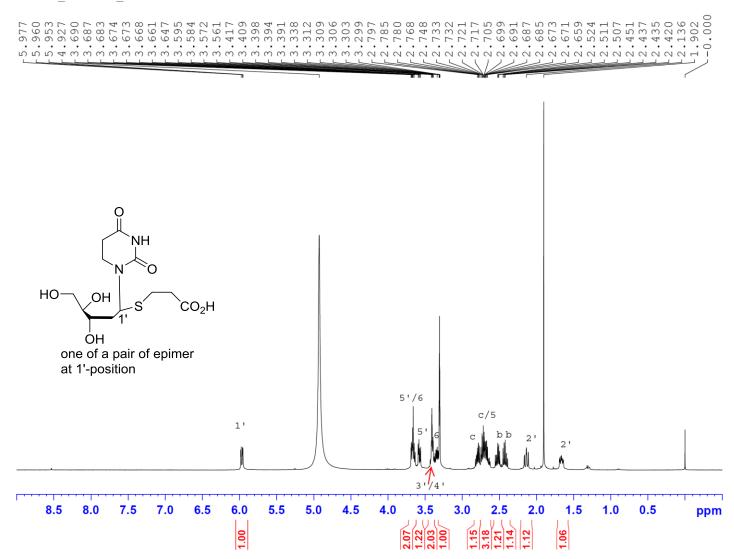


Figure S43. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **8**.

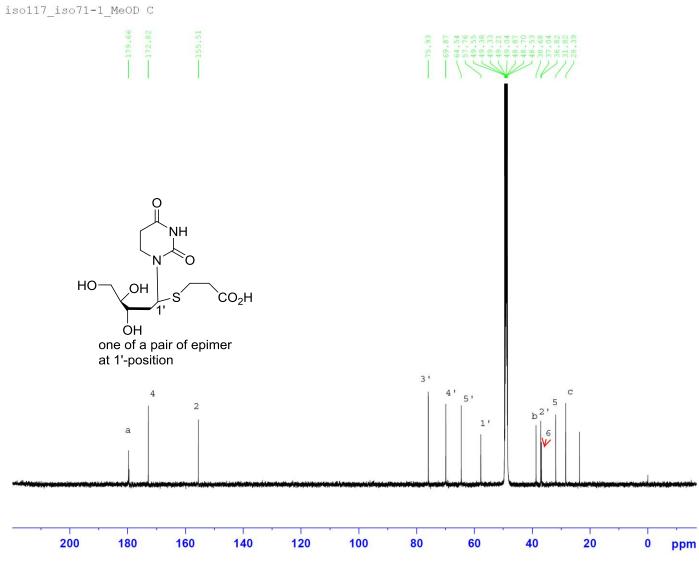


Figure S44. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **8**.

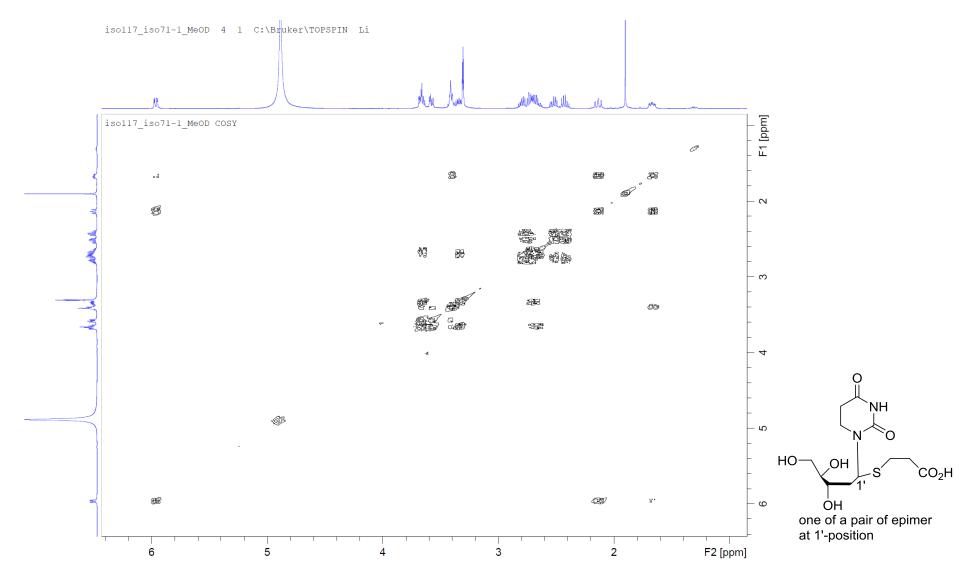


Figure S45. COSY spectrum of compound **8**.

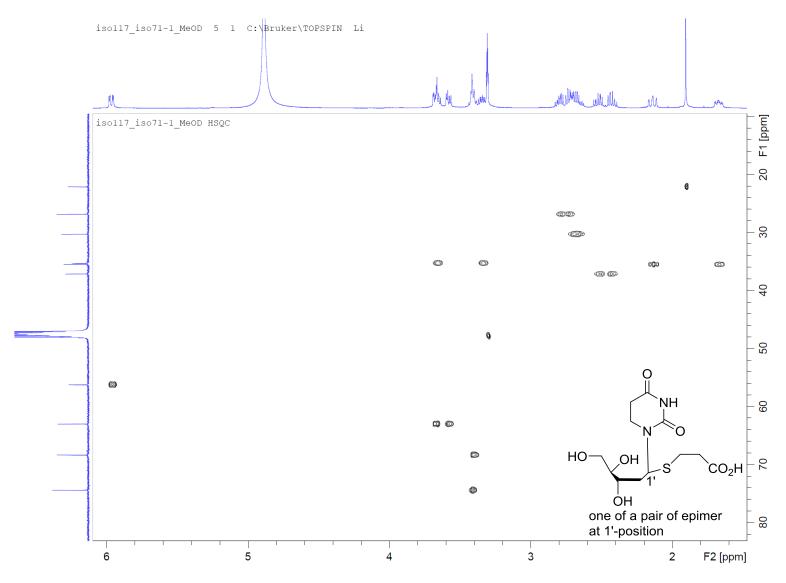


Figure S46. HSQC spectrum of compound **8**.

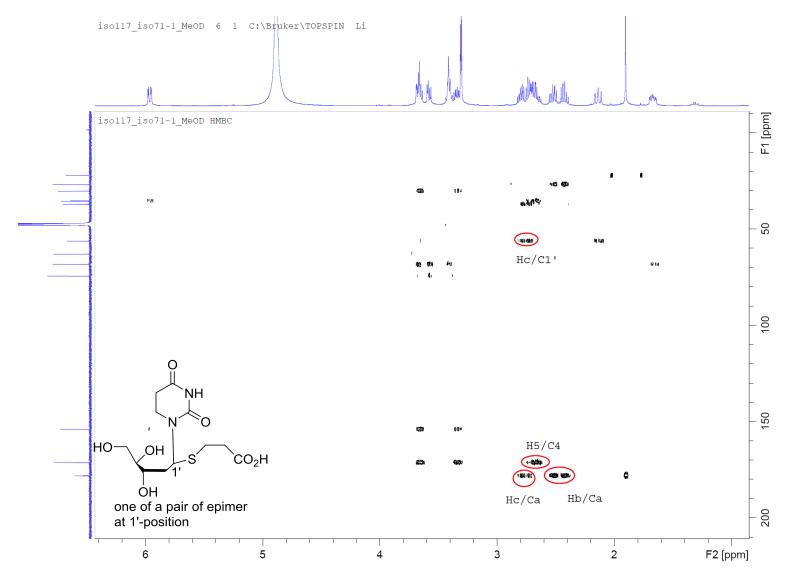


Figure S47. HMBC spectrum of compound **8**.

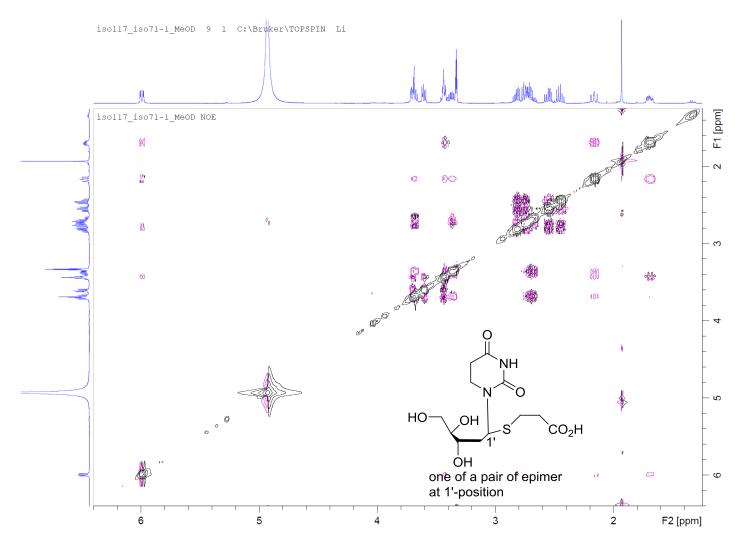


Figure S48. NOESY spectrum of compound **8**.

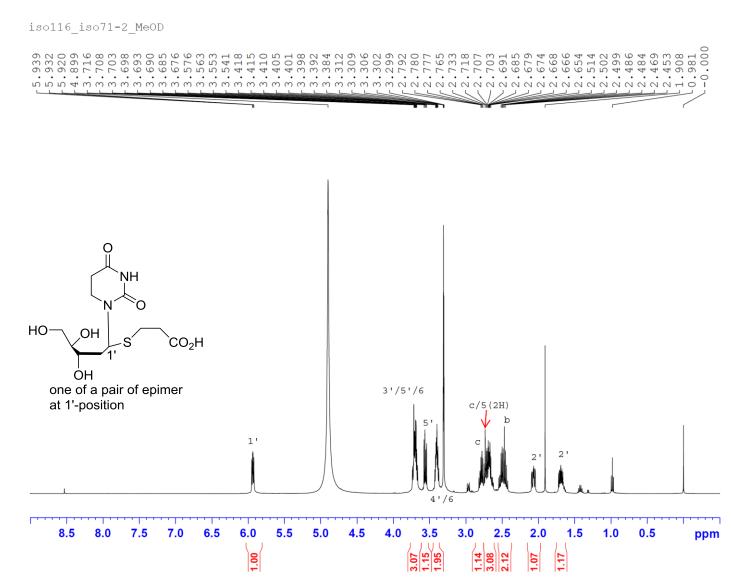


Figure S49. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **9**.

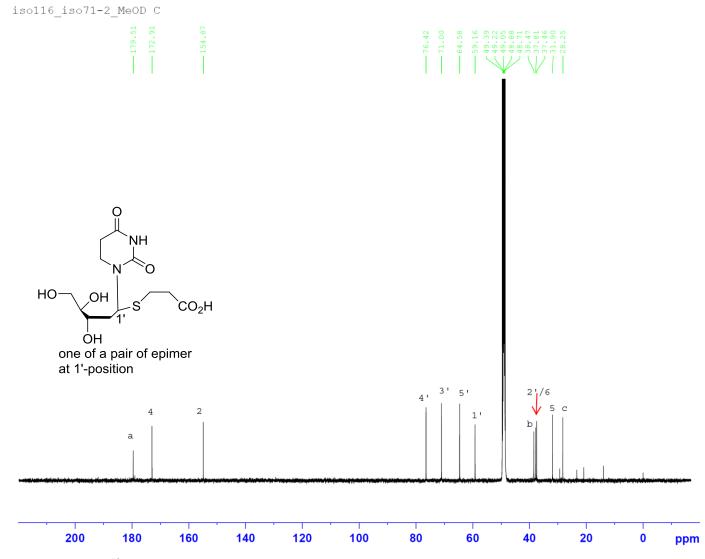


Figure S50. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **9**.

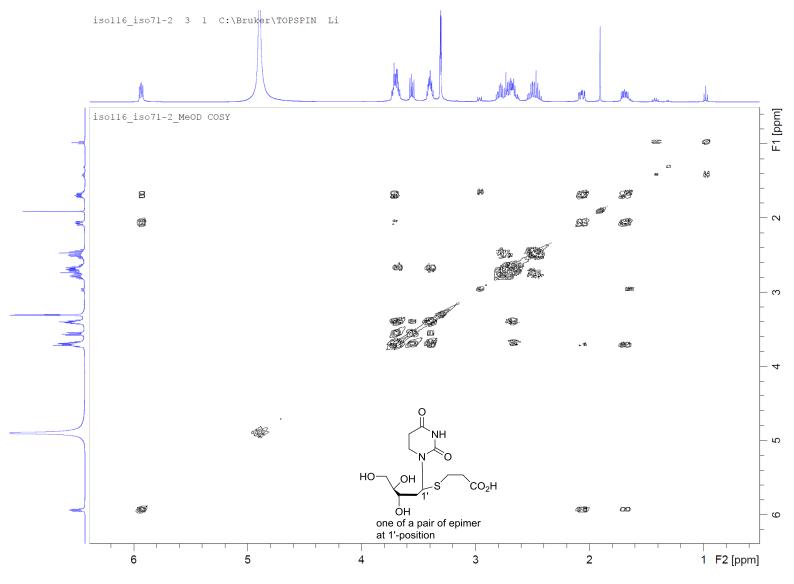


Figure S51. COSY spectrum of compound **9**.

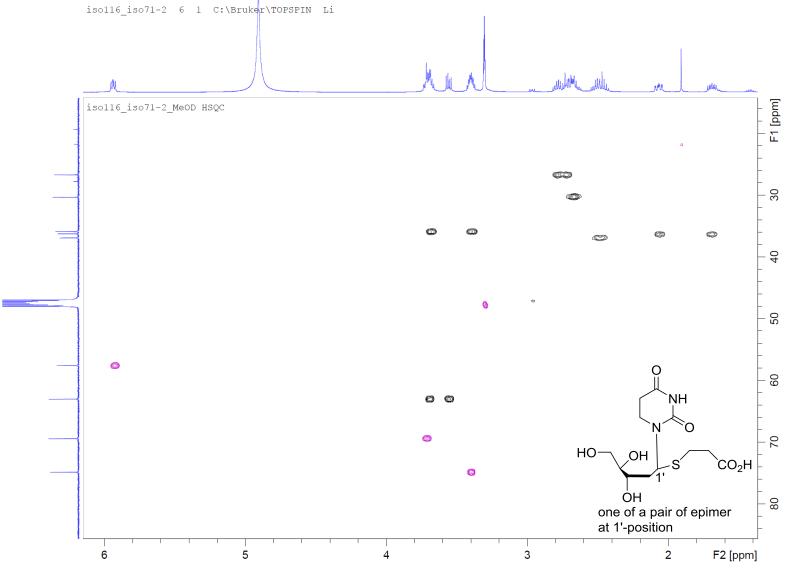


Figure S52. HSQC spectrum of compound **9**.

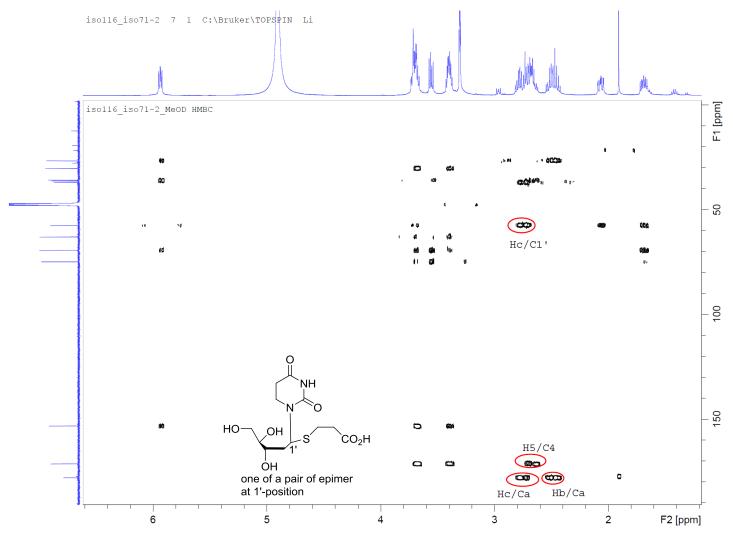


Figure S53. HMBC spectrum of compound 9.

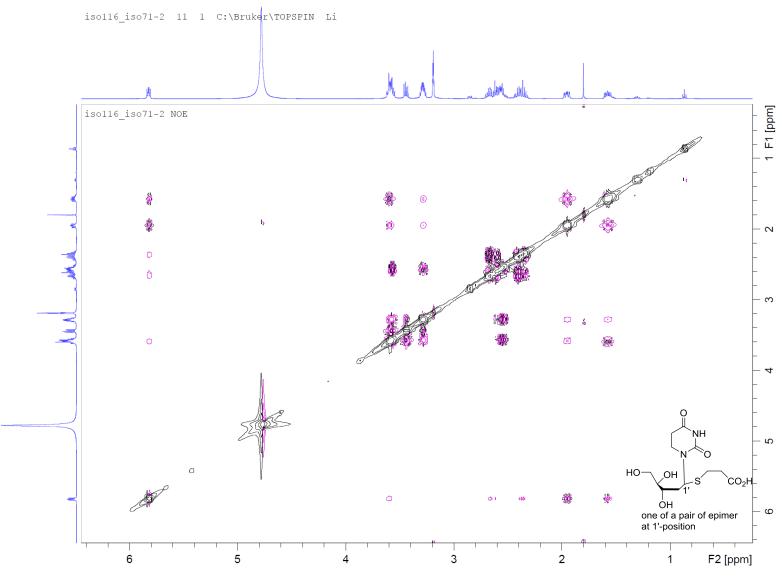


Figure S54. NOESY spectrum of compound **9**.