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Concise syntheses and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibition of (2' *R*)-3 and (2' *S*)-2'- ethynyluridine-10 and related nucleosides

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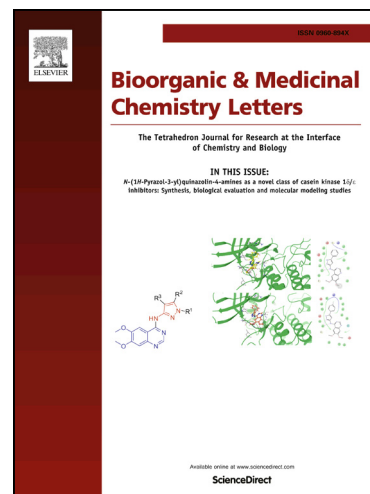
PII: S0960-894X(17)30666-2  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmcl.2017.06.064>  
Reference: BMCL 25098

To appear in: *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*

Received Date: 8 May 2017  
Revised Date: 22 June 2017  
Accepted Date: 23 June 2017

Please cite this article as: Bennett, F., Buevich, A.V., Huang, H-C., Girijavallabhan, V., Kerekes, A.D., Huang, Y., Malikzay, A., Smith, E., Ferrari, E., Senior, M., Osterman, R., Wang, L., Wang, J., Pu, H., Truong, Q.T., Tawa, P., Bogen, S.L., Davies, I.W., Weber, A.E., Concise syntheses and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibition of (2' *R*)-3 and (2' *S*)-2'- ethynyluridine-10 and related nucleosides, *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters* (2017), doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmcl.2017.06.064>

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## Concise syntheses and HCV NS5B polymerase inhibition of (2'*R*)-3 and (2'*S*)-2'-ethynyluridine-10 and related nucleosides

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received

Revised

Accepted

Available online

#### Keywords:

Nucleoside

Hepatitis

Cancer

### ABSTRACT

(2'*R*)-Ethynyl uridine **3**, and its (2'*S*)-diastereomer **10**, are synthesised in a divergent fashion from the inexpensive parent nucleoside. Both nucleoside analogues are obtained from a total of 5 simple synthetic steps and 3 trivial column chromatography purifications. To evaluate their effectiveness against HCV NS5B polymerase, the nucleosides were converted to their respective 5'-O-triphosphates. Subsequently, this led to the discovery of the 2'-β-ethynyl **18** and -propynyl **20** nucleotides having significantly improved potency over Sofosbuvir triphosphate **24**.

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