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(54) Title: TREATMENT OF BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

## (57) Abstract

Compounds which bind to toxins associated with enteric bacterial infection, compositions including the compounds, methods for the neutralization of toxins in a patient, and methods for the diagnosis of bacterial and viral infections are disclosed. Toxins which can be bound by the compounds include pentameric toxins, for example SLTs, such as those from *salmonella*, *campylobacter* and other bacteria, verotoxins from *E. coli*, cholera toxin, *clostridium difficile* toxins A and B, bacterial pili from enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) and enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) and viral lectins such as viral hemagglutinins. The compounds include a core molecule bound to a plurality of linker arms, which in turn are bound to a plurality of bridging moieties, which in turn are bound to at least one, and preferably, two or more ligands which bind to the toxin. Examples of suitable ligands include di- and for trisaccharide moieties. The di- or tri-saccharide moieties themselves are active in binding to the SLTs. The presence of a plurality of bridged dimers of the ligands is responsible for the increased binding affinity of the compounds relative to the ligands themselves. In one embodiment, the compounds, when administered in a timely fashion to a patient suffering from enteric *E. coli* infection, inhibit progression of this infection into hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).

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## TREATMENT OF BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

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### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the treatment of toxins, in particular, toxins generated by bacteria. More specifically, this invention relates to methods for the neutralization of shiga-like toxins (SLT) associated with enteric *E. coli* infection which methods inhibit progression of this infection into hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).

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State of the Art

15                  A number of bacteria are associated with the production of toxins. For example, diarrhea caused by strains of pathogenic *E. coli* has been found to be associated with the production of a variety of enterotoxins. Some pathogenic *E. coli* produce enterotoxins that are closely related to the shiga toxin associated with *Shigella*-caused dysentery. The first member of the family of shiga-like toxins (SLT) to be isolated was cytotoxic for African Green Monkey (Vero) cells and was originally called verotoxin. Since its structural similarity to shiga toxin has been established by sequencing of the relevant genes, this toxin is now more commonly called shiga-like toxin I (SLTI) [5,6,7].

25                  Additional members of the SLT family have subsequently been isolated that can be distinguished serologically, on the basis of gene sequence, or on host specificity [37-43]. Various types of SLTII have been described and have been assigned various designations depending on the strain of *E. coli* from which they are isolated and the host affected. Thus variants have been designated SLTII; vtx2ha; SLTIIvh; vtx2hb; SLTIIc; SLTIIvp and so forth.

5           All of the SLT's are multimeric proteins composed of an enzymatic (A) subunit and multiple (B) subunits. The B oligomer is the binding portion of the toxin that allows it to bind to host cell receptors. The B subunits of SLT<sub>I</sub>, SLT<sub>II</sub> and SLT<sub>II</sub>vh recognize host cell globoseries glycolipid receptors containing at minimum the disaccharide subunit  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal at the non-reducing terminus; 10 SLT<sub>II</sub>vp has been shown to bind to the receptors containing this subunit but not necessarily to the non-reducing end [2, 44-51]. The A subunit has an enzymatic activity (N-glycosidase) that depurinates 28S ribosomal RNA in mammalian cells. This enzymatic activity abolishes the ability of the toxin-infected cell to perform protein synthesis.

15           The site for SLT action is endothelial cells found in the kidneys and mesenteric vasculature, and SLTs may cause damage that can result in renal failure and hemoglobin in the urine. SLTs are the causative agent in the hemolytic-uremic syndrome. SLTs may also be partially involved in the pathogenesis of hemorrhagic colitis (bloody diarrhea). The hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is the leading 20 cause of acute renal failure in childhood and affects approximately 7 - 10% of children in the 5 - 10 days following infection with *E. coli* 0157:H7 and other verotoxin/shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli* (VTEC).

Recent attention regarding such pathogenic *E. coli* has focussed on the 25 known correlation between *E. coli* contamination of certain meats and subsequent infection in humans after ingestion of this meat. The problem is particularly acute with regard to hamburger meat where ingestion of undercooked meat has been found to be the causative factor in the infection. This problem is compounded by the fact that the rapid progression of the pathogenic *E. coli* infection into HUS via the expression of the SLTs suggests the hypothesis that initial colonization of the 30 intestinal tract is followed by endothelial injury and subsequent kidney involvement via the transmembrane delivery of the SLT toxin into the blood stream of the infected individual.

5 As a complicating factor, the art suggests against the use of antibiotics in the treatment of enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* infection [8]. The use of antimotility drugs also appears to be counterproductive [9].

10 An approach to treating the effects of bacterial infections is to bind the toxins they produce, thereby protecting cells from being damaged. For example, with respect to SLTs, studies have shown that the functional receptor is the glycolipid Gb3. The carbohydrate binding component of the toxin is a donut shaped pentameric structure built from five identical subunits. The *E. coli* verotoxin (VT1) has been crystallized with the Pk trisaccharide and three distinct binding sites per subunit revealed occupancy by trisaccharide [H. Ling, et al., 15 *Biochemistry*, 37:1777-1788 (1998)]. Docking studies [P-G. Nyholm, et al., *Chemistry and Biology*, 3:263-275 (1996)] also suggest an additional Pk recognizing domain on the protein surface. Because numerous bacterial toxins have similar crystal structures. VT1 is a good model system to study multivalent interactions in the search for tight binding inhibitors of bacterial toxins.

20 Various reducing sugars, including monosaccharides, disaccharides and trisaccharides, have been bound to bacterial toxins, including SLTs. Several prior attempts to design multivalent inhibitors of receptor-saccharide binding have used monovalent oligosaccharides that are glycosidically linked to a functionalized tether to provide multianntenary ligand presentation. The verotoxin system cited 25 above (VT1) illustrates that the assumption of a uniform binding motif may not always occur. Further, the optimum site for tethering ligands need not be the anomeric center of the terminal reducing sugar.

30 Because various toxins are known to bind to reducing sugars, toxins can often be bound to solid supports containing an immobilized reducing sugar (Nilsson et al., *Bioconjugate Chem.*, 8:466-471 (1997)). Pharmaceutically inert affinity supports that include an  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal subunit have been administered to

5       infected patients to treat SLT infections [10]. The support passes into the intestinal tract of the patient whereupon the  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal subunit binds the Shiga-like toxin. Subsequently, the toxin bound to this solid support is eliminated from the body as part of the stool. This procedure removes the toxins from the body which, in turn, inhibits the manifestation of the conditions associated with toxin  
10      accumulation.

U.S. Patent No. 5,679,653 to Armstrong et al. discloses the use of various compositions which include  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal subunits, and the use of these compositions to diagnose and treat enteric infections caused by *E. coli* that produce Shiga-like toxins. These compositions also include a solid support to which the  
15      subunits are bound, optionally through the use of a linker arm.

Dendrimers including multiple carbohydrate moieties with high affinity for lectins on the surface of some bacteria have been prepared. Hansen et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 119:6974-6979 (1997). The multivalent dendrimers were reported to be hundreds of times more efficient than the monomeric compounds in binding  
20      the surface-bound lectins. However, the use of multivalent dendrimers has not been applied to the binding of toxins associated with bacterial infections.

Notwithstanding the significant advances made by these reported methods, further advances in the treatment of bacterial infections are needed, in particular, in the treatment of enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* infections are needed in order to reduce  
25      the occurrence of HUS and the high morbidity levels associated therewith.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed to compounds and pharmaceutical compositions useful for binding to toxins, in particular, bacterial toxins, and methods of preparation and use thereof to diagnose and/or treat disorders resulting from  
30      bacterial infection. In one embodiment, the invention is directed to compounds

5 and pharmaceutical compositions useful for binding to a Shiga-like toxin ("SLT"), and methods of preparation and use thereof to diagnose and/or treat HUS arising from enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* infection.

The compounds include a multifunctional core molecule with between 3 and 20 active sites for coupling to a linker arm, between 3 and 20 linker arms bound to the active sites, and bridged dimers or trimers linked to between 3 and 20 of the linker arms. The bridged dimers or trimers include at least one ligand capable of binding to the toxins. The dimers or trimers are bridged such that there are two or three dimers or trimers attached to each linker arm through a multifunctional molecule with two or three sites of attachment which are coupled to the ligand and at least one site of attachment which is coupled to the linker arm. The bridging is performed with a bridging moiety which is linked to at least two dimers or trimers and one or more linker arms. In one embodiment, the bridged dimers or trimers linked to between 3 and 20 of the linker arms. The bridged dimers or trimers include at least one saccharide moiety selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal,  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ GlcNAc and  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Glc.

The linker arms are at least one carbon atom in length, and are preferably C6-20 straight, branched or cyclic alkanes, in which one or more of the carbons may be replaced with an O, S, or amine. The linker arms can be functionalized at one or more positions with a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, thiol, amine, carboxy, keto, thioester, ester, amide, carbamoyl, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl and alkaryl. Prior to being coupled, the bridging moiety and the linker arms must include suitable nucleophiles and leaving groups such that they can be coupled together. Such nucleophiles and leaving groups are well known to those of skill in the art. These groups are also used to couple the saccharides to the bridging molecule, using conventional carbohydrate chemistry.

5           The ligands can include various functional groups. Suitable functional groups for these molecules are known to those of skill in the art, and include deoxy and hydrogen bonding substituents such as halo, amine, hydroxy, thio, guanidine and carboxy.

10          The compositions include a compound which binds to the toxin, a suitable carrier, and optionally, a solid support bound to the compound. The pharmaceutical compositions are preferably administered within about 3 days of presentation of the infection, more preferably, before the infection has significantly produced systemic effects, for example, before organs other than the intestine become involved.

15          The methods of treatment generally involve the time critical administration of an effective amount of one or more of the compounds, or a pharmaceutical composition that includes one or more of the compounds, which may or may not be bound to a solid support or other inert carrier molecules. The infection is treated by binding the compound(s) to the toxin. When the compositions include the above listed saccharides, the clinical incidence of HUS arising from  
20         enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* infection is reduced when the pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein are administered within 3 days of presentation of the infection. Contrarily, administration of this pharmaceutical composition after this time frame or when organs other than the intestine are involved in the infection, substantially reduces the ability of this composition to reduce the incidence of  
25         HUS. Preferably, the development of hemolytic uremic syndrome arising from enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* infection mediated by shiga-like toxins is inhibited in a patient using the methods disclosed herein. In a preferred embodiment the pharmaceutical composition is administered to the patient prior to organ involvement other than involvement of the intestine.

30          In a preferred embodiment the pharmaceutical composition is administered to the patient prior to organ involvement other than involvement of the intestine.

5                   The diagnostic methods involve contacting a biological sample which is suspected of being infected with the bacterial toxin with the compound, alone or bound to a suitable solid or other inert support. Bound toxin can be detected via known methodology. The compounds include ligands which bind the toxin, which ligands can be labeled, for example, with a fluorescent or radioactive label, to assist in detecting the presence of the toxin. In one embodiment, the compounds include  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal subunits which subunits bind the SLT.

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For the purposes of this invention, the presentation of the infection is determined after the identification of at least one condition associated with a bacterial infection. Such conditions include, for example, patients with diarrhea and one of the following: abdominal cramping, blood in the stool, rectal prolapse, detection of a toxin-producing bacteria in the patient's stool or bodily fluids; ingestion of food suspected of containing a toxin-producing bacteria; or close contact with an individual known to have an bacterial infection. In the case of an SLT-mediated infection, the conditions include, for example, patients with diarrhea and one of the following: abdominal cramping, blood in the stool, rectal prolapse, detection of a verotoxin-producing *E. coli* in the patient's stool; ingestion of food suspected of containing a verotoxin-producing *E. coli*; or close contact with an individual known to have an SLT mediated infection. Preferably, the presentation of the infection is manifested by bloody diarrhea. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the initial clinical evaluation that the individual is afflicted with an SLT mediated *E. coli* infection is confirmed via diagnostic evaluation of the stool. One diagnostic tool commercially available for detecting SLT mediated *E. coli* infection is sold by Meridian Diagnostic, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, USA 45244 under the name Premier EHEC.

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30                   In one embodiment, the effects of bacterial infection, for example, the development of hemolytic uremic syndrome in a patient presenting an enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* infection mediated by shiga-like toxin can be inhibited

5 by administering to the patient an effective amount of the pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1a-d are schematic illustrations of a scheme for preparing a pentameric presentation of a bridged trisaccharide dimer (Compound 22).

10 Figure 2 is a series of illustrations demonstrating the binding affinity of Compound 22 ("Starfish") and various saccharide compositions to verotoxin, and also the binding affinity of Shiga toxins to cells.

15 Figures 3a-d are graphs comparing the killing of kidney cells by SLTs with SLTs bound to a bridged Pk saccharide (lighter boxes) versus Pk saccharide linked to bovine serum albumin ("BSA") (darker boxes). The staining of viable cells was monitored at 620 nm as a function of the concentration of the compounds ( $\mu$ g/ml).

20 Figure 4 is a graph comparing the inhibitory power of various bridged Pk disaccharides and trisaccharides with unbridged Pk trisaccharide towards VT-I in an ELISA assay as a function of percent inhibition (%) vs. inhibitor concentration ( $\mu$ M). Triangles represent Pk trisaccharide. Circles represent a bridged dimer of a Pk disaccharide. Diamonds represent a bridged dimer that includes one Pk disaccharide and one Pk trisaccharide. Squares represent a bridged dimer that includes two Pk trisaccharides. The bridges were formed by reacting a hydroxy group on the Pk disaccharides or trisaccharides with p-nitrophenyl carbonate, and forming two urea linkages (hence forming a dimer) by reaction with a diamine.

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Figure 5 is a graph comparing the inhibitory power of Compound 22 ("starfish") with a bridged dimer of Pk trisaccharides and with unbridged Pk trisaccharide towards VT-1 in an ELISA assay as a function of percent inhibition

5 (%) vs. inhibitor concentration ( $\mu$ M). Triangles represent Pk trisaccharide. Squares represent a bridged dimer of a Pk trisaccharide. Circles represent the “starfish” molecule.

Figure 6 is a schematic illustration showing the binding of verotoxin VTI to the “starfish” molecule.

10 Figures 7-11 are schematic illustrations showing the structural formula for compounds 23-27, respectively.

Figure 12 is a schematic illustration showing the squaric acid derivative (compound 28) used to prepare compounds 25-27.

15 Figure 13 is a schematic illustration showing the various sugar molecules (compounds 21, 29 and 30) used to react with the squaric acid derivative (compound 28) to prepare compounds 25-27.

Figure 14 is a bar graft showing the inhibitory power of multivalent bridged analogues (Log (IC<sub>50</sub>) as measured according to Protocol A.

20 Figure 15 is a bar graft showing the inhibitory power of multivalent bridged analogues (Log (IC<sub>50</sub>) as measured according to Protocol B.

Figure 16 is a graph showing the binding of SLT-1 and SLT-2 to a P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide disulfide plate (OD<sub>280</sub> vs. toxin concentration [M]).

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

25 As noted above, compounds which bind to and neutralize toxins associated with bacterial infections, for example, shiga-like toxins (SLT) associated with enteric *E. coli* infection and compositions including these compounds are

5 disclosed. Methods of preparation of these compounds, methods of inhibiting progression of bacterial infections, and methods of diagnosing bacterial infections, such as hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), are also disclosed. However, prior to discussing this invention in further detail, the following terms will first be defined:

10 A. Definitions

As used herein the following terms have the following meanings:

15 The term "shiga-like toxin" or "SLT" or "verotoxin" refers to a group of toxins produced by enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* that resemble the *Shigella*-produced shiga toxins as is commonly understood in the art. These toxins comprise an enzymatically active A subunit and a multimeric receptor binding B subunit. Such SLTs include SLT I and the various grouped toxins designated in the art as SLT II.

20 Rapid tight binding of SLTs to compounds which include a multifunctional core molecule bound to a plurality of linker arms, which are themselves linked to bridged dimers or trimers of P<sub>1</sub> disaccharides, P<sub>1</sub> trisaccharides, or P<sub>k</sub> trisaccharides is demonstrated by the verocytotoxicity neutralization assays contained herein.

25 The term "organ involvement" refers to clinically defined organ involvement mediated by SLTs which correlates to the natural progression of the disease. Organs other than the intestines include, by way of example, the kidney, heart, elements of the central nervous system ("CNS") (i.e., brain, spinal cord, etc.), liver, and the like. Conventional blood chemistry tests can evaluate liver, heart, and kidney involvement whereas clinical symptoms including dementia, convulsions, disorientation, etc. are employed to determine CNS involvement.

30 "Hemolytic uremic syndrome" is considered to be present if there is renal injury and either hemolysis or thrombocytopenia. Renal injury requires an

5 elevation in the serum creatinine concentration (>50  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  for those less than 5 years, or >60  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  for those 5-6 years) or a difference in the recorded creatinine values during the acute phase of the illness of more than 50% or at least 10 red blood cells per high power field on urine microscopy. Hemolysis is judged to be present if the hemoglobin concentration is  $\leq 105\text{g/L}$  or if there are red blood cell fragments on the smear or if a red blood cell transfusion was administered before the hemoglobin dropped to  $\leq 105\text{g/L}$ . Thrombocytopenia is defined as a platelet concentration of less than  $150 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ .

10

15 The term "biocompatible" refers to chemical inertness with respect to animal or human tissues or body fluids. Biocompatible materials are non-sensitizing.

20 The term "compatible linker arm" refers to a moiety which serves to space the oligosaccharide structure from the biocompatible solid support and which is bifunctional wherein one functional group is capable of covalently binding to a reciprocal functional group of the support and the other functional group is capable of binding to a reciprocal functional group of the oligosaccharide structure. Compatible linker arms preferred in the present invention are non-peptidyl linker arms. That is to say that the linker arms do not employ a peptide group to link the oligosaccharide structure to the solid support.

25 The term "solid support" refers to an inert, solid material to which the oligosaccharide sequences are bound via a compatible linker arm. Where the use is *in vivo*, the solid support will be biocompatible. However, support materials and compounds bound to such materials, which materials are soluble in physiological fluids, are also included.

30 The solid supports to which the oligosaccharide structures of the present invention are bound may be in the form of particles. A large variety of

5        biocompatible solid support materials are known in the art. Examples thereof are  
silica, synthetic silicates such as porous glass, biogenic silicates such as  
diatomaceous earth, silicate-containing minerals such as kaolinite, and synthetic  
polymers such as polystyrene, polypropylene, and polysaccharides. Solid supports  
made of inorganic materials are preferred. Preferably the solid supports have a  
10      particle size of from about 10 to 500 microns for *in vivo* use. In particular, particle  
sizes of 100 to 200 microns are preferred.

The term "SYNSORB" refers to synthetic 8-methoxycarbonyloctyl  
oligosaccharide structures covalently coupled to CHROMOSORB P<sup>TM</sup> (Manville  
Corp., Denver, Colorado) [11], which is a derivatized silica particle.

15      As used herein, the term "polysaccharide" refers to a moiety with more than  
one saccharide unit, and includes di- and tri-saccharides.

As used herein, the term "alkyl" refers to monovalent straight, branched or  
cyclic alkyl groups preferably having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, more preferably 1  
20      to 10 carbon atoms ("lower alkyl") and most preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms. This  
term is exemplified by groups such as methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *iso*-propyl, *n*-butyl,  
*iso*-butyl, *n*-hexyl, and the like. The terms "alkylene" and "lower alkylene" refer to  
divalent radicals of the corresponding alkane. Further, as used herein, other  
moieties having names derived from alkanes, such as alkoxy, alkanoyl, alkenyl,  
cycloalkenyl, etc when modified by "lower," have carbon chains of ten or less  
25      carbon atoms. In those cases where the minimum number of carbons are greater  
than one, *e.g.*, alkenyl (minimum of two carbons) and cycloalkyl, (minimum of  
three carbons), it is to be understood that "lower" means at least the minimum  
number of carbons.

As used herein, the term "substituted alkyl" refers to an alkyl group,  
30      preferably of from 1 to 10 carbon atoms ("substituted lower alkyl"), having from 1

5 to 5 substituents, and preferably 1 to 3 substituents, selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, substituted cycloalkenyl, acyl, acylamino, acyloxy, amino, substituted amino aminoacyl, aminoacyloxy, oxyacylamino, cyano, halogen, hydroxyl, keto, thioketo, carboxyl, carboxylalkyl, thiol, thioalkoxy, substituted thioalkoxy, aryl, 10 aryloxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heterocyclic, hydroxyamino, alkoxyamino, nitro, -SO-alkyl, -SO-substituted alkyl, -SO-aryl, -SO-heteroaryl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-substituted alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-heteroaryl, and mono- and di-alkylamino, mono- and di-(substituted alkyl)amino, mono- and di-aryl amino, mono- and di- 15 heteroaryl amino, mono- and di-heterocyclic amino, and unsymmetric di-substituted amines having different substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclic. As used herein, other moieties having the prefix "substituted" are intended to include one or more of the substituents listed above.

20 As used herein, the term "alkoxy" refers to the group "alkyl-O-", where alkyl is as defined above. Preferred alkoxy groups include, by way of example, methoxy, ethoxy, *n*-propoxy, *iso*-propoxy, *n*-butoxy, *tert*-butoxy, *sec*-butoxy, *n*-pentoxy, *n*-hexoxy, 1,2-dimethylbutoxy, and the like.

25 As used herein, the term "alkenyl" refers to alkenyl groups preferably having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms and more preferably 2 to 6 carbon atoms and having at least 1 and preferably from 1-2 sites of alkenyl unsaturation. Preferred alkenyl groups include ethenyl (-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), *n*-propenyl (-CH<sub>2</sub> CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), *iso*-propenyl (-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)=CH<sub>2</sub>), and the like.

As used herein, the term "alkynyl" refers to alkynyl groups preferably having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms and more preferably 2 to 6 carbon atoms and having at least 1 and preferably from 1-2 sites of alkynyl unsaturation.

5 As used herein, the term "acyl" refers to the groups alkyl-C(O)-, substituted alkyl-C(O)-, cycloalkyl-C(O)-, substituted cycloalkyl-C(O)-, aryl-C(O)-, heteroaryl-C(O)- and heterocyclic-C(O)- where alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclic are as defined herein.

10 As used herein, "alkaryl" refers to an alkyl group with an aryl substituent. Binding is through the alkyl group. "Aralkyl" refers to an aryl group with an alkyl substituent, where binding is through the aryl group.

15 As used herein, the term "acylamino" refers to the group -C(O)NRR where each R is independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclic wherein alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclic are as defined herein.

As used herein, the term "aryl" refers to an unsaturated aromatic carbocyclic group of from 6 to 14 carbon atoms having a single ring (e.g., phenyl) or multiple condensed (fused) rings (e.g., naphthyl or anthryl). Preferred aryls include phenyl, naphthyl and the like. Unless otherwise constrained by the definition for the aryl substituent, such aryl groups can optionally be substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents and preferably 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of acyloxy, hydroxy, acyl, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkyl, substituted alkoxy, substituted alkenyl, substituted alkynyl, amino, substituted amino, aminoacyl, acylamino, alkaryl, aryl, aryloxy, azido, carboxyl, carboxylalkyl, cyano, halo, nitro, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heterocyclic, heterocycloxy, aminoacyloxy, oxyacylamino, thioalkoxy, substituted thioalkoxy, thioaryloxy, thioheteroaryloxy, -SO-alkyl, -SO-substituted alkyl, -SO-aryl, -SO-heteroaryl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-substituted alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-heteroaryl, trihalomethyl. Preferred substituents include alkyl, alkoxy, halo, cyano, nitro, trihalomethyl, and thioalkoxy.

5 As used herein, the term "cycloalkyl" refers to cyclic alkyl groups of from 3 to 12 carbon atoms having a single cyclic ring or multiple condensed rings. Such cycloalkyl groups include, by way of example, single ring structures such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclooctyl, and the like, or multiple ring structures such as adamantanyl, and the like.

10 As used herein, the terms "halo" or "halogen" refer to fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo and preferably is either fluoro or chloro.

15 As used herein, the term "heteroaryl" refers to an aromatic carbocyclic group of from 1 to 15 carbon atoms and 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur within at least one ring (if there is more than one ring).

20 Unless otherwise constrained by the definition for the heteroaryl substituent, such heteroaryl groups can be optionally substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents and preferably 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of acyloxy, hydroxy, acyl, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkyl, substituted alkoxy, substituted alkenyl, substituted alkynyl, amino, substituted amino, aminoacyl, acylamino, alkaryl, aryl, aryloxy, azido, carboxyl, carboxylalkyl, cyano, halo, nitro, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heterocyclic, heterocycloxy, aminoacyloxy, oxyacylamino, thioalkoxy, substituted thioalkoxy, thioaryloxy, thioheteroaryloxy, -SO-alkyl, -SO-substituted alkyl, -SO-aryl, -SO-heteroaryl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-substituted alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-heteroaryl, trihalomethyl. Preferred substituents include alkyl, alkoxy, halo, cyano, nitro, trihalomethyl, and thioalkoxy. Such heteroaryl groups can have a single ring (e.g., pyridyl or furyl) or multiple condensed rings (e.g., indolizinyl or benzothienyl).

30 "Heterocycle" or "heterocyclic" refers to a monovalent saturated or unsaturated group having a single ring or multiple condensed rings, from 1 to 15

5 carbon atoms and from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur or oxygen within the ring.

Unless otherwise constrained by the definition for the heterocyclic substituent, such heterocyclic groups can be optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, 10 substituted alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, halo, nitro, heteroaryl, thiol, thioalkoxy, substituted thioalkoxy, thioaryloxy, trihalomethyl, and the like. Such heterocyclic groups can have a single ring or multiple condensed rings.

15 As to any of the above groups that contain 1 or more substituents, it is understood, of course, that such groups do not contain any substitution or substitution patterns which are sterically impractical and/or synthetically non-feasible.

20 "Pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to pharmaceutically acceptable salts of a compound of Formulas IA, IB, or IC, which salts are derived from a variety of organic and inorganic counter ions well known in the art and include, by way of example only, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tetraalkylammonium, and the like; and when the molecule contains a basic functionality, salts of organic or inorganic acids, such as hydrochloride, hydrobromide, tartrate, mesylate, acetate, maleate, oxalate and the like can be used as the pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

25 The term "protecting group" or "blocking group" refers to any group which when bound to one or more hydroxyl, amino or carboxyl groups of the compounds (including intermediates thereof such as the aminolactams, aminolactones, etc.) prevents reactions from occurring at these groups and which protecting group can be removed by conventional chemical or enzymatic steps to reestablish the 30 hydroxyl, amino or carboxyl group. Preferred removable amino blocking groups

5 include conventional substituents such as t-butyloxycarbonyl (t-BOC),  
benzyloxycarbonyl (CBZ), and the like which can be removed by conventional  
conditions compatible with the nature of the product.

### I. Compounds:

10 The compounds disclosed herein include a multifunctional core molecule  
with active sites for coupling to a linker arm, linker arms attached to some or all of  
the active sites, and bridged dimers or trimers of various di- or tri-saccharides  
attached to the linker arms via suitable bridging moieties. Suitable compounds are  
exemplified by the following formula:



15 where MFC is a multifunctional core molecule, LA is a linker arm, BM is a  
bridging molecule which includes at least one, and preferably two or more ligands,  
in one embodiment, di or tri-saccharides, which bind to the toxin of interest. The  
number of bridging molecules (n) is, independently, between 3 and 20. Preferably,  
n is such that the composition contains about 0.25 to 2.50 micromoles of ligand per  
20 gram of composition. The saccharide moieties preferably include the  
 $\alpha\text{Gal}(1\rightarrow 4)\beta\text{Gal}$  subunit and contain at least two 6 sugar units which bind to the  
shiga-like toxin.

#### Ligands

25 Suitable ligands for many toxins are generally known. The binding of these  
ligands to the toxin is enhanced by presenting the ligands as part of the multimeric  
compounds described herein. Preferred ligands are those with relatively high  
affinity (i.e., a  $K_D$  less than about  $10^{-3}$  M) for the toxin of interest.

5           The reversibility of the binding of the ligands is enhanced due to the plurality of ligands available for binding. Accordingly, although the binding affinity for the ligands may not significantly change due to presentation in the multimeric compounds described herein, the reversibility of the binding can be significantly lowered.

10           The ligand(s) used to bind the toxin vary depending on the toxin of interest. Suitable ligands for binding various toxins can be readily determined or are known. Suitable ligands preferably have a size less than a few thousand daltons, more preferably, less than a thousand daltons, and include sugars such as sialic acid glucose, galactose, mannose, fucose, glucosamine, galactosamine, mannosamine 15 (or their various N-acyl derivatives), xylose, and uronic acids derived from the preceding sugars, 3,6-dideoxyhexoses, 6-deoxyhexoses, amino acids, peptides (2-100 amino acids) oligonucleotides, preferably containing 2-40, more preferably 10-25 base pairs, and oligoribonucleotides. While antibodies for the toxins can be generated, and the presentation in multimeric molecules may enhance the binding, 20 this may not be preferred due to the size of the antibody molecules.

Assays for determining the binding affinity of the ligands for the toxins

25           Suitable assays for determining the binding include binding affinity studies, and also studies determining the viability of cells which would be killed or injured by unbound toxin. For example, verotoxins bind to vero cells, which cells can be analyzed for viability using methods well known to those skilled in the art, for example, using *in vivo* tests such as vero cell cytotoxicity tests and *in vitro* tests such as high throughput screening methods. High throughput screening methods are well known to those of skill in the art of combinatorial chemistry.

30           Identification of Ligands Based on the Crystal Structure of the Toxin

5                   Appropriate ligands for various toxins can be determined based on the crystal structure of the toxin, using computer modeling techniques as described in more detail below. The crystal structures of a variety of toxins are known, as well as the binding of various saccharide moieties to these toxins.

10                  Hol, W. G. J., et al., Structure and function of *E. coli* heat labile enterotoxin and cholera toxin B-pentamer, In *Bacterial, toxins and virulence factors in disease*. Edited by J. Moss, M. Vaughan, B. Iglesias, and A. T. Tu. M Dekker New York, 1995.

15                  Merritt, E. A., et al., AB<sub>5</sub> Toxins, Current Opinion in Structural Biology, 5:165-171, 1995.

15                  Pickett, E. L., et al., Genetics of type II a heat-labile enterotoxin of *Escherichia coli*: operon fusions, nucleotide sequence, and hybridization studies, J. Bacteriol, 169: 5180-5187, 1987.

20                  Pickett, D. L., et al., Cloning nucleotide sequence, and hybridization studies of the type IIB heat-labile enterotoxin gene of *Escherichia coli*, J. Bacteriol, 171: 4945-4952, 1989.

                        Calva, E., et al., *Campylobacter jejuni* chromosomal sequences that hybridize to *Vibrio cholerae* and *Escherichia coli* LT enterotoxin genes, Gene, 75: 243-251, 1989.

25                  Brunton, J. L., The shiga toxin family: molecular nature and possible role in disease. In *Molecular basis of bacterial pathogenesis*. Edited by B. H. Iglesias et al., San Diego, Academic Press, p377-398, 1990.

                        Sixma, T. K., et al., Crystal structure of cholera toxin-related heat labile enterotoxin for *E. coli*, nature, 351: 371-378, 1991.

30                  Sixma, T. K. et al., Lactose binding to heat-labile enterotoxin revealed by X-ray crystallography, Nature, 355: 561-564, 1992.

                        Sixma, T. K. et al., Refined structure of *Escherichia coli* heat-labile enterotoxin, a Respectfully submitted, relative of cholera toxin, J. Mol. Biol., 230: 890-918, 1993.

5 Merritt, E. A., et al., Crystal structure of cholera toxin B-pentamer bond to receptor G<sub>m1</sub> pentasaccharide, *Protein Science*, 3: 166-175, 1994.

Stein, P. E., et al., Crystal Structure of the Cell-Binding of B Oligomer of verotoxin-1 from *E. coli*, *Nature*, 355: 748-750, 1992.

Merritt, E. A., et al., Galactose binding site in *E. Coli* heat-labile enterotoxin (LT) and cholera toxin (CT), *Mol. Microbiol.*, 13: 745-753, 1994.

10 Hohenester, E., et al., Crystal structure of a decameric complex of human serum amyloid, *J. Mol. Biol.*, 269: 570, 1997.

Stehle, T., et al., The structure of simian virus 40 refined at 3.1 a resolution, *Structure*, 4: 165, 1996.

15 Stehle, T., et al., Structure of murine polyomavirus complexed with an oligosaccharide receptor fragment, *Nature*, 369: 160, 1994.

Stehle, T., et al., Crystal structures of murine polyomavirus in complex with straight-chain and branched-chain sialyloligosaccharide receptor fragments, *Structure*, 4: 183, 1996.

20 Merritt, E. A., et al., Structural studies of receptor binding by cholera toxin mutants, *Protein Sci.*, 6: 1516, 1997.

Akker, F. Van Den, et al., Tumor marker disaccharide D-Gal- $\beta$ 1, 3-Galnac complexed to heat labile enterotoxin from *Escherichia coli*, *Protein Sci.*, 5: 1184, 1996.

25 Hohenester, E., et al. Decameric damp complex of human serum amyloid P component, *Crystal Structure of a decameric complex of human serum amyloid*, *J. Mol. Bio.*, v269, p570, 1997.

The contents of the above references are hereby incorporated by reference.

Identification of Ligands from Combinatorial Libraries

30 Ligands for use in binding various toxins can be readily identified from combinatorial libraries of compounds using a variety of routine methods. For example, ELISA assays can be used. Also, frontal zone affinity chromatography

5 can be used. In this approach, a toxin is covalently bound to a chromatography column. Ligands suspected of having affinity for the toxin are eluted through the column. Through competitive binding, those compounds with low affinity for the toxin will be eluted faster than those with high affinity. The ligands can be identified following elution from the column, for example, using mass  
10 spectrometry, UV, and other routine analytical methods. Suitable conditions for performing frontal zone affinity chromatography are described, for example, in Schriemer, D.C., et al., Micro-scale frontal affinity chromatography: a new method for screening of compound libraries. *Angew. Chem.*, 37:3383-3387 (1998), the contents of which are incorporated by reference.

15 Computer Modeling Studies

Suitable ligands can be identified through computer modeling. Once the crystal structure of the toxins is known, suitable binding sites can be identified and computer modeling used to determine suitable ligands for binding the sites.

20 Computer modeling is well known to those of skill in the art. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,854,992 discloses systems and methods for structure-based drug design that includes accurate prediction of binding free energy. The method generally involves (a) evaluating a receptor site for a molecular make up of at least a portion of the receptor site to which a molecule being grown will bind and generating at least a coordinate of at least a portion of the receptor site to which the  
25 molecule being grown will bind, and outputting, at least with respect to the molecular make up of the receptor site, the coordinate of the portion of the receptor site to which the molecule being grown will bind; (b) estimating free energy of the molecule being grown using knowledge-based potential data to estimate free energy and outputting the estimated free energy; and (c) building a  
30 molecule for binding to the receptor site using the outputs from steps (a) and (b), with the building step including building the molecule by selecting molecular

5 fragments at orientations that will result in free energy estimates for the molecule that may be higher than a lowest free energy estimate possible for the molecule.

Other methods for determining ligands based on computer models are described in Aqvist et al., J. Biol. Chem. 1995 Apr 28;270(17):9978-81 "Sugar recognition by a glucose/galactose receptor. Evaluation of binding energetics from 10 molecular dynamics simulations," J. Biomol. Struct. Dyn. 1999 Feb;16(4):891-900 "Exploring the interaction of some N-benzyloxycarbonyl-L-phenyl alanyl-L-alanine ketones and bovine spleen cathepsin B by molecular modeling and binding free energy calculation," Hansson et al., J. Comput. Aided Mol. Des., 1998 Jan;12(1):27-35 "Ligand binding affinity prediction by linear interaction 15 energy methods," Aqvist et al., Protein Eng. 1994 Mar;7(3):385-91 "A new method for predicting binding affinity in computer-aided drug design," and Hansson and Aqvist, Protein Eng., 1995 Nov;8(11):1137-44, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Using the methods in these publications, one can 20 determine appropriate ligands for virtually any toxin, and then incorporate the ligands into the multimeric compounds described herein using known chemistry.

#### Computer Modeling of the Verotoxin Protein Structure (SLT-2)

Shiga-like toxins SLT-1 and SLT-2 share approximately 60% sequence homology. Although the crystal structure for some of them is not yet available, computer-assisted simulation can be used to model the carbohydrate-protein 25 complex of SLT-2 with the P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide. In this case, the known crystal structure of the SLT-1 B<sub>5</sub> pentamer was arbitrarily chosen and P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharides were superimposed at each of the 3 binding sites (sites 1, 2 and 3). The crystal structure data frequently show incomplete occupancy at each binding site and sometimes incomplete electron density for the full trisaccharide. In such cases one 30 of the P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide residues that was completely defined by well resolved electron density was superimposed on P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide fragments observed in other positions. In this way a hypothetical pentameric structure was generated in which

5 all 15 binding sites (5 each of sites 1, 2 and 3) were fully occupied by P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide ligands.

The energy of the resulting complex was minimized using the Discover BIOSYM package, CVFF force field with a dielectric constant set to 80, conjugate gradient minimization routine over 10000 iterations. The selected SLT-1 B 10 subunit was modified by gradual substitution of non-consensus amino acids (4-5 at a time, "patchwork") and minimization of energy after each step as described above. After the mutation SLT-1/SLT-2 was complete the resulting structure retained the original OB fold characteristic of verotoxin as well as the shape of the SLT-1 B subunit. Five copies of the mutated B subunit were superimposed on the 15 original SLT-1/P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide complex using several distant consensus amino acids as a reference. The SLT-1 protein was then deleted and the energy of the SLT-2/ligand complex was again minimized. After completion of this process all of the 15 P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide units positioned in the SLT-2 binding sites corresponded to those of the original SLT-1/P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide complex and showed attractive 20 interactions with modified protein.

Other methods of molecular design based on crystal structure work or analogue mapping of the binding site for providing sugar-like molecules that are easier to synthesize than the native ligands are well known to those of skill in the art. Kolb, H.C., Design and synthesis of a macrocyclic E-selectin antagonist. 25 Bioorg. And Med. Chem. Lett., 7:2629-2634 (1997); Kolb, H.C., et al., Development of tools for the design of selectin antagonists. Chem. Eur. J., 3:1571- (1997); Simanek, E.E., et al., Selectin-carbohydrate interactions: From natural 30 ligands to designed mimics. Chem. Rev., 98:833-862 (1998); Rao, N., et al., A library of glyco-peptides useful for identification of cell adhesion inhibitors; PCT/US94/11370; and PCT WO95/10296 the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

5        The following references deal with the design of sugar-based inhibitors where the structure of the protein binding site need not be known in precise three dimensional terms: Kolb, H.C. Design and synthesis of a macrocyclic E-selectin antagonist. *Bioorg. And Med. Chem. Lett.*, 7:2629-2634 (1997); Kolb, H.C., et al., Development of tools for the design of selectin antagonists. *Chem. Eur. J.*, 3:1571-  
10      (1997); Wong, C-H., et al., Small molecules as structural and functional mimics of sialyl Lewis X tetrasaccharide in selectin inhibition: A remarkable enhancement of inhibition by additional negative charge and/or hydrophobic group. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 119:8152-8158 (1997); Simanek, E.E., et al., Selectin-carbohydrate interactions: From natural ligands to designed mimics. *Chem. Rev.*, 98:833-862  
15      (1998); Rao, N., et al., A library of glyco-peptides useful for identification of cell adhesion inhibitors; PCT/US94/11370, and PCT WO95/10296, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

20      The following references are relevant to situations where the binding site of the protein has been known: Watson, K.A., et al., *Biochemistry*, 33, 5745-5758 (1994) and von Itzstein, M, *et al.*, *Nature* 363, 418-423 (1993).

Based on the contents of these references, ligands suitable for binding virtually any toxin can be readily identified.

### Sugars

25      The sugars can be any sugar which binds to a particular toxin, for example, mono-, di- or tri-saccharides, and can optionally be large oligosaccharides. Sialic acid is known as a ligand for cholera toxin. The  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal subunit is known to bind to shiga-like toxins. Other sugars are known to bind to other toxins. Selection of an appropriate sugar for a particular toxin can be done using routine binding studies. The presentation of a plurality of sugar moieties in the compounds described herein allows for increased binding relative to when the sugar alone is used.

5

Suitable di- and tri-saccharides which bind to SLT's include those disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,679,653 to Armstrong et al., and also those disclosed in references 3, 46-48, 50-51 and 53.

Compounds useful for binding to SLTs preferably include a  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal disaccharide subunit which subunit can be used alone or in conjunction with a higher oligosaccharide, e.g., the  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ GlcNAc trisaccharide or the  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Glc trisaccharide. The  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal disaccharide subunit is preferably found at the non-reducing terminus of an oligosaccharide. These sugars, and compounds including these sugars, were not found to be particularly active against VT-II toxin, although showed high affinity for VT-I toxin.

Suitable saccharide moieties for binding to SLTs are those with relatively high affinity (i.e., a  $K_D$  less than about  $10^{-3}$  M) and specifically include  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal,  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ GlcNAc and  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Glc in the form of dimers and/or trimers.

Suitable saccharide moieties for binding to cholera toxin from *Vibrio cholerae* and heat-labile enterotoxin of enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* include lactose and sialyllactose.

For the purpose of this application, all sugars are referenced using conventional three letter nomenclature. All sugars are assumed to be in the D-form unless otherwise noted, except for fucose, which is in the L-form. Further, all sugars are in the pyranose form.

Between two and three disaccharides and/or trisaccharides of the above saccharides are linked to a bridging molecule as described herein, which bridging

5 molecules are then linked to linker arms, which are then linked to a multifunctional core molecule with between three and 20 sites of attachment.

10 The saccharide moieties can optionally be functionalized with between one and four functional groups selected from the group consisting of halo, such as fluoro and chloro, thio, carboxy, amine, O-alkyl-S-alkyl, O-alkyl-S-alkyl-C(O)O-, O-alkyl-S-alkyl-S(O)<sub>2</sub>O-, and guanidine. Saccharides including these substituents are well known to those of skill in the art, and are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,679,653 to Armstrong et al., and also those disclosed in references 3, 46-48, 50-51 and 53. Deoxy sugars can also be used, although they will be expected to show less binding affinity. As presented herein, the active saccharides 15 are simple methyl glycosides. However, any simple aglycon, for example, those substituted with (alkyl, aryl, allyl, thioalkyl, and thioaryl, can be used.

20 In a non-preferred embodiment, additional sugars may be present (i.e., between about 4 and 10 saccharide units), however, the additional saccharide moieties are not expected to assist in the binding to any appreciable extent. Di- and trisaccharides are preferred.

Preferably, the bridging molecule includes a dimer of a tri-saccharide. However, dimers or trimers of trisaccharides, and dimers or trimers of di-saccharides all bind the toxins with relatively high affinity, provided they are present on a plurality of linker molecules bound to a central core molecule.

25 Peptides

Peptides are known to bind to various toxins. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,885,577, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference, discloses methods for identifying antigen binding peptides (abtides) from peptide libraries. Peptides typically include a C-terminal and an N-terminal end, and the carboxy and

5 amine groups at these ends can be used to couple the peptides to the bridging molecules using known chemistry.

10 Antibodies can be generated which bind to the toxin with relatively high affinity. While these compounds can be linked to the bridging molecules, they are typically of a relatively high molecular weight, so that the use of antibodies, while within the scope of the present invention, is not preferred.

#### Oligonucleotides and Oligoribonucleotides

15 Oligonucleotides and oligoribonucleotides have been shown to bind to various target molecules, for example, using the SELEX methodology pioneered by NeXstar Pharmaceuticals. Libraries of random oligonucleotides and oligoribonucleotides can be screened using the SELEX methodology or using frontal zone affinity chromatography followed by PCR analysis of high affinity ligands to find optimum binding ligands for various toxins, which can then be coupled to the bridging molecules using known chemistry, for example, by binding to the 5'-terminal hydroxy groups on the oligonucleotides and oligoribonucleotides.

20

#### A. Multifunctional Core Molecules

25 As used herein, a suitable multifunctional core molecule is one which is biocompatible, and which includes between three and 20 active sites which can be used to couple with a linker arm. As used herein, "active site" refers to a site which includes a nucleophile or a leaving group such that a linker arm which includes a leaving group or nucleophile, respectively, can be coupled to the core molecule. As an example, a core molecule including a halide can be linked to a linker arm including a hydroxy group via an etherification reaction, or to a linker arm including an amine via nucleophilic displacement of the halide.

30 Examples of suitable multifunctional core molecules include sugars, such as mono-, di- and tri-saccharides, polyhydroxy compounds such as penta-erithritol,

5 short chain polylysines, polysubstituted aromatics, cycloalkanes, polyacrylamides, cyclodextrins, phthalocyanins, mono- and oligosaccharides, inositol, and alditols.

#### B. Linker Arms

10 The linker arms are preferably organic bifunctional molecules of appropriate length (at least one carbon atom) which serve simply to distance the oligosaccharide dimers and trimers from the linker arm. Preferably, the linkers are designed to bridge the spacing between the binding sites on proximal lectin subunits or proximal lectin molecules on toxins which include such moieties.

15 Suitable linking arms are described by Lemieux et al. [11]. The optimum linker arm length depends on the spatial arrangement of binding sites in the multivalent toxin.

20 The linker arms are preferably C6-20 straight, branched or cyclic alkanes, in which one or more of the carbons may be replaced with an O, S, or amine. The linker arms can be functionalized at one or more positions with a functional group selected from the group consisting of aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic. In order to be coupled to the saccharide moieties, the bridging moiety and the linker arm must include suitable nucleophiles and leaving groups such that they can be coupled together, wherein the groups used to bind the linker arm and bridging moiety are not present in the 25 final compound.

30 A linker arm is generally between 6 and 20 carbons in length, preferably between 6 and 16 carbons in length, and more preferably, between 6 and 10 carbons in length. The optimum length is determined by x-ray crystallography of the SLT's, which shows the length required for proper orientation of the di- or tri-saccharide moieties to have adequate binding to the SLT. This allows bridged oligomers to simultaneously occupy the adjacent binding sites of toxin subunits and exhibit enhanced affinity relative to monomeric moieties.

5        The linker arms are bound to a bridging molecule that itself is bound to two or three disaccharides or trisaccharides. Bridged dimers or trimers are linked to between 3 and 20 of the linker arms. However, not all of the linker arms need to be coupled to the bridging molecules for the molecules to be active.

10      Numerous aglycon linking arms are known in the art. For example, a linking arm comprising a para-nitrophenyl group (i.e., -OC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>pNO<sub>2</sub>) has been disclosed [29]. At the appropriate time during synthesis, the nitro group is reduced to an amino group which can be protected as N-trifluoroacetamido. Prior to coupling to a support, the trifluoroacetamido group is removed thereby unmasking the amino group.

15      A linking arm containing sulfur has been disclosed [30]. Specifically, the linking arm is derived from a 2-bromoethyl group which, in a substitution reaction with thionucleophiles, has been shown to lead to linking arms possessing a variety of terminal functional groups such as -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> and -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-pNH<sub>2</sub>. These terminal functional groups permit reaction to complementary functional groups on the solid support, thereby forming a covalent linkage to the solid support. Such reactions are well known in the art.

20      A 6-trifluoroacetamido-hexyl linking arm (-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-NHCOCF<sub>3</sub>) has been disclosed [31] in which the trifluoroacetamido protecting group can be removed, unmasking the primary amino group used for coupling.

25      Other exemplifications of known linking arms include the 7-methoxycarbonyl-3,6-dioxaheptyl linking arm [32] (-OCH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); the 2-(4-methoxycarbonylbutancarboxamido)ethyl [33] (-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHC(O)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); the allyl linking arm [34] (-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>) which, by radical co-polymerization with an appropriate monomer, leads to co-polymers; other allyl linking arms [35] are known

5 (-O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>). Additionally, allyl linking arms can be derivatized in the presence of 2-aminoethanethiol [36] to provide for a linking arm - OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>. Other suitable linking arms have also been disclosed [12-14, 16, 17].

10 Preferably, the aglycon linking arm is a hydrophobic group and most preferably, the aglycon linking arm is a hydrophobic group selected from the group consisting of -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>8</sub>C(O)-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>- and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>8</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-. Non-peptidyl linking arms are preferred for use as the compatible linking arms of the present invention.

15 The use of glycopeptides is not desirable because glycopeptides contain several, often different, oligosaccharides linked to the same protein. Glycopeptides are also difficult to obtain in large amounts and require expensive and tedious purification. Likewise, the use of BSA or HSA conjugates is not desirable, for example, due to questionable stability in the gastrointestinal tract when given orally.

20 C. Bridging Molecules

Any molecule which can bind to two or three ligands, for example, disaccharides or tri-saccharides, peptides, oligonucleotides and the like, and which can also bind to a linker arm can be used as the bridging molecule. Suitable examples include glycerol, gallic acid and polysubstituted aromatics.

5

## II. Pharmaceutical Compositions

Disorders mediated by toxins, in particular, pentameric toxins, such as SLTs such as those from *salmonella*, *camylobacter* and other bacteria, verotoxins from *E. coli*, cholera toxin, *clostridium difficile* toxins A and B, bacterial pili from enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) and enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) and viral lectins such as viral hemagglutinins can be treated using pharmaceutical compositions that include one or more of the compounds disclosed herein, in combination with a suitable carrier for administration to a patient.

The compositions are preferably administered orally. Preferred compositions for oral administration include pills, tablets, capsules, caplets, syrups, and solutions. Preferred compositions are in liquid or semisolid form. Compositions including a liquid pharmaceutically inert carrier such as water or other pharmaceutically compatible liquids or semisolids may be used. The use of such liquids and semisolids is well known to those of skill in the art.

Compositions which may be mixed with semisolid foods such as applesauce, ice cream or pudding may also be preferred. Formulations, such as SYNSORBs, which do not have a disagreeable taste or aftertaste are preferred. A nasogastric tube may also be used to deliver the compositions directly into the stomach.

Solid compositions may also be used, and may optionally and conveniently be used in formulations containing a pharmaceutically inert carrier, including conventional solid carriers such as lactose, starch, dextrin or magnesium stearate, which are conveniently presented in tablet or capsule form. The SYNSORB itself may also be used without the addition of inert pharmaceutical carriers, particularly for use in capsule form. When a pharmaceutically inert carrier is employed the carrier is typically employed in the amount ranging from about 1 to about 99

5 percent based on the total weight of the composition and more preferably from about 75 to about 95 weight percent.

10 Doses are selected to provide neutralization and elimination of the toxin and/or elimination of bacteria found in the affected patient. Preferred doses are from about 0.25 to 1.25 micromoles of ligand/kg body weight/day, more preferably about 0.5 to 1.0 micromoles of ligand/kg body weight/day.

With respect to SLT-mediated disorders, administration of the oligosaccharide-containing compositions during a period of up to seven days will be useful in treating SLT-associated diarrhea and associated conditions.

15 As discussed previously, oral administration is preferred, but formulations may also be considered for other means of administration, for example, rectal administration. Formulations useful for rectal administration, such as suppositories, are well known to those of skill in the art. The usefulness of these formulations may depend on the particular composition used and the particular subject receiving the treatment. These formulations may contain a liquid carrier 20 that may be oily, aqueous, emulsified or contain certain solvents suitable to the mode of administration.

Compositions may be formulated in unit dose form, or in multiple or subunit doses. For the expected doses set forth previously, orally administered liquid compositions should preferably contain about 1 micromole ligand/ml.

25 The compositions can also be administered via injection, i.e., intraveneously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, and intraarterially. Intravenous administration is a preferred method of injection. Suitable carriers for injection are well known to those of skill in the art, and include 5% dextrose solutions, saline, and phosphate buffered saline.

5           In addition to the carriers disclosed above, the compounds can optionally be covalently attached to or adsorbed onto a biocompatible solid support, e.g., CHROMOSORB P<sup>TM</sup> (SYNSORB). The bound compounds can be administered to a patient in need of treatment thereof to bind the toxins.

10           When the compounds are bound to a solid support, such as SYNSORB, an effective dosage is about 0.5 to 1.0 gram SYNSORB/kg body weight/day, which gives a concentration of SYNSORB in the gut of about 20 mg/ml. Administration is expected to be 2 to 4 times daily, preferably for a period of one week. The specific dose level and schedule of administration will, of course, vary for each individual depending on factors such as the particular ligand structure employed, 15 the age and condition of the subject, the extent of the disease condition, all of which are well within the skill of the art.

20           When the ligand is one that binds to SLTs, the compositions are useful to prevent HUS and associated conditions. SYNSORB is particularly preferred for these compositions because it is non-toxic and resistant to mechanical and chemical decomposition. SYNSORBs have been found to pass unaffected through the rat gastrointestinal tract. They were found to be eliminated completely and rapidly (99% eliminated in 72 hours) following oral administration. Additionally, a high density of oligosaccharide moieties can be present on the SYNSORB, which can be particularly useful for binding verotoxins.

5

### **III. Compound Preparation**

The compounds can be prepared by first selecting a suitable core molecule, suitable linker arms, suitable binding molecules, and suitable di- and/or trisaccharide moieties. The core molecule, which includes a plurality of either nucleophiles or leaving groups, can then be reacted with a plurality of linker arms, which each include a suitable leaving group or nucleophile, respectively, for attachment to the core molecule. Preferably, the linker arms include a protected nucleophile or leaving group at the other end, which, after deprotection, can be used to couple with a suitable binding molecule.

The linker arms, thus bound to the core molecule, are now ready to be coupled with a binding molecule. The binding molecule, previously coupled to at least one, and preferably two or three ligand molecules, for example, di- or tri-saccharide moieties, peptides, and oligonucleotides using conventional carbohydrate chemistry, also includes a nucleophile or leaving group capable of being reacted with a leaving group or nucleophile, respectively, present on the linker arms.

Chemical methods for the synthesis of the ligands, for example, oligosaccharides structures, are well known to those of skill in the art. These ligands are preferably prepared using suitable protecting groups such that there is no interference with the remaining coupling chemistry during preparation of the multimeric compounds described herein. For example, when the ligands are saccharides, these materials are generally assembled using suitably protected individual monosaccharides.

The ligands are covalently bound onto the bridging molecule. The covalent bonding may be via reaction between functional groups on the bridging molecule and the ligand(s).

5           The specific methods employed are generally adapted and optimized for each individual structure to be synthesized. With respect to oligosaccharides, the chemical synthesis of all or part of the oligosaccharide glycosides first involves formation of a glycosidic linkage on the anomeric carbon atom of the reducing sugar or monosaccharide. Specifically, an appropriately protected form of a  
10          naturally occurring or of a chemically modified saccharide structure (the glycosyl donor) is selectively modified at the anomeric center of the reducing unit so as to introduce a leaving group comprising halides, trichloroacetimidate, acetyl, thioglycoside, etc. The donor is then reacted under catalytic conditions well known in the art with an aglycon or an appropriate form of a carbohydrate acceptor which  
15          possesses one free hydroxyl group at the position where the glycosidic linkage is to be established. A large variety of aglycon moieties are known in the art and can be attached with the proper configuration to the anomeric center of the reducing unit.

20          Appropriate use of compatible blocking groups, well known in the art of organic synthesis, in particular, in carbohydrate synthesis, will allow selective modification of the synthesized structures or the further attachment of additional ligands such as sugar units or sugar blocks to the acceptor structures.

25          After formation of the glycosidic linkage, the saccharide glycoside can be used to effect coupling of additional saccharide unit(s) or chemically modified at selected positions or, after conventional deprotection, used in an enzymatic synthesis. In general, chemical coupling of a naturally occurring or chemically modified saccharide unit to the saccharide glycoside is accomplished by employing established chemistry well documented in the literature [12-28].

#### IV. Methods of Treatment Using the Compositions

30          Toxins may be neutralized by the ligands binding the toxin. In particular, oligosaccharide sequences comprising the  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal subunits have been found to neutralize SLT toxin effectively. As shown in Figure 6, Verotoxin VT1

5       complexes with the starfish molecule 22 described herein such that the binding site  
2 of the verotoxin subunits bind with the sugars in the starfish molecule attached to  
the bridging molecule.

10      The ability of several of the compositions to neutralize SLT toxin has been  
tested, and the results are shown in Figures 3a-d. Suitable compositions can be  
prepared for treating a variety of bacterial and viral toxins, such as verotoxins VT1  
and VT2, cholera toxin, heat labile enterotoxin, pertussis toxin, pentameric  
proteins and other toxins with more than one binding site.

15      The oligosaccharide sequences attached to the core molecule through the  
binding molecule and the linker arms include those which bind SLT toxin. The  
binding affinity of an oligosaccharide to SLT toxin is readily detectable by a simple  
*in vitro* test, as for example, set forth in Example 1 below. For the purposes of this  
invention, compounds which bind SLT toxin are those compositions which reduce  
endpoint titers from cytotoxic activity in *vero* cell assays by at least 50% and,  
preferably, by at least 95%, using the assay set forth in the Examples section of  
20     U.S. Patent No. 5,679,653 to Armstrong et al.

25      The effect of the compositions of the invention in neutralizing SLTs can be  
measured by comparing activity of the SLT with and without treatment with the  
compositions. Activity of the SLTs can be assayed by taking advantage of the  
toxicity of these compounds to Vero cells. Vero cells (ATCC CCL81) can be  
obtained from the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville MD.

30      The clinical incidence of HUS arising from enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* infection is reduced when the pharmaceutical compositions described above are administered within 3 days of presentation of the infection and prior to organ involvement other than intestinal involvement. Contrarily, administration of this pharmaceutical composition after this time frame when organs other than the

5 intestine are involved in the infection substantially reduces the ability of this composition to reduce the incidence of HUS.

10 Preferably, the initial clinical evaluation that the individual is afflicted with an SLT mediated *E. coli* infection is confirmed via diagnostic evaluation of the stool. One diagnostic tool commercially available for detecting SLT mediated *E. coli* infection is sold by Meridian Diagnostic, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, USA 45244 under the name Premier EHEC.

15 Armstrong, et al. [10] established that oligosaccharides comprising a  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal subunit possess similar *in vitro* properties. *In vivo* results (Armstrong et al., *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 and other Shiga toxins producing *E. coli* strains, J.B. Caper and A.D. O'Brien, ed. American Society for Microbiology Press, Washington, D.C., 1998) for the P<sub>k</sub> trisaccharide have demonstrated the affect of timing of administration of the composition in reducing the incidence of HUS. It is beneficial to administer the compounds to a patient within about three days of infection to have maximal results.

20 **V. Diagnostic Methods**

25 The compounds can be employed in diagnostic methods which evaluate the presence of bacterial infection, for example, enteric *E. coli* infection. The diagnostic methods involve the binding of the compounds to the toxins present in the sample, and detecting the bound toxin. The detection can be accomplished using known methodology, for example, by attaching a fluorescent tag or radiolabel to the compound, or by monitoring for changes in various absorbence spectra due to the binding of the toxin and the compound. In one embodiment, the compounds are coupled to or adsorbed onto a solid support, for example, SYNSORB<sup>TM</sup>, and the solid support is then used in a diagnostic assay. Those of skill in the art can readily determine an appropriate set of conditions for evaluating 30 the presence of toxin using the compounds described herein.

5 As can be appreciated from the disclosure above, the present invention has a wide variety of applications. Accordingly, the following examples are offered by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

## EXAMPLES

10 In the examples below, all temperatures are given in degrees Celsius and the following abbreviations have the following meanings. If not defined below, then the abbreviations have their art recognized meanings.

ASA	=	acetylated silylaminated hydrophobic 8-methoxycarbonyloctyl linkage arm
BSA	=	bovine serum albumin
cm	=	centimeter
dpm	=	decays per minute
EDTA	=	ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid
g	=	gram
HUS	=	hemolytic uremic syndrome
kg	=	kilogram
L	=	liter
LPS	=	lipopolysaccharide
M	=	molar
MEM	=	minimal Eagles medium
mg	=	milligrams
mL	=	milliliters
min.	=	minutes
mm	=	millimeters
nm	=	nanometers
30 PBS	=	phosphate buffered saline
pg	=	picogram
SDS	=	sodium dodecyl sulfate
SLT	=	shiga-like toxin
35 $\mu$ g	=	microgram
$\mu$ L	=	microliter
$\mu$ mol	=	micromol

### Example 1: General discussion of the Chemistry in Examples 2-18

A general approach to the preparation of P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide analogues modified at the C-2 position of the central galactose residue was developed, as shown in Figures 1a-d. Compound 22 appears to be the most preferred compound.

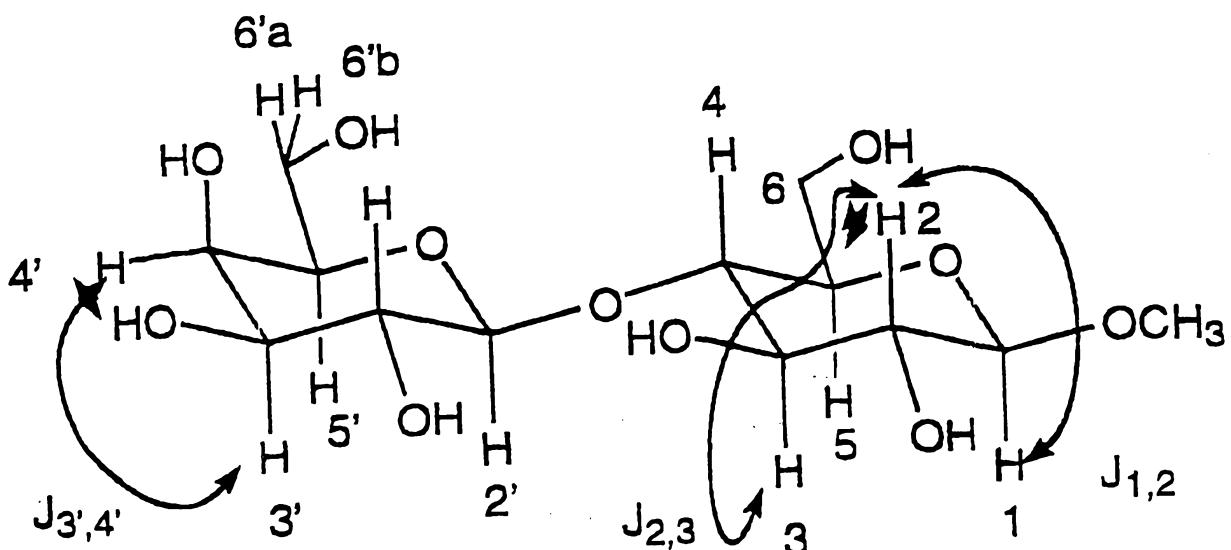
5 Since the VTI toxin is a pentamer, and bridged dimers of di- and tri-saccharides are known to bind to the toxin, the compound was designed to be a pentamer with bridged dimers of di- and tri-saccharides such that the compound could most effectively bind to the toxin.

10 The known lactose derivative 1 was allylated; the product was subjected to acid hydrolysis and acetylation to give a mixture of anomeric heptaacetates 2. Conversion of 2 into lactosyl chloride 3 was achieved by a treatment with dichloromethyl methyl ether in the presence of  $ZnBr_2$ . Glycosidation of chloride 3 by methanol with concurrent removal of acetates led to the selectively allylated methyl  $\beta$ -lactoside 4. Acid catalyzed reaction of the lactoside 4 with  $\alpha,\alpha$ -  
15 dimethoxytoluene gave the 4',6'-O-benzylidene derivative 5, which was perbenzylated to afford 6. Acid hydrolysis of 6 followed by selective benzoylation of the primary hydroxyl in diol 7 with BzC1 in pyridine afforded the glycosyl acceptor 8, that was glycosylated with chloride 9 in toluene in the presence of AgOTf and a hindered base to give trisaccharide 10. Replacement of the 6'-O-  
20 benzoyl group by a benzyl group provided the trisaccharide 12 conveniently protected with temporary (allyl) and "permanent" (benzyl) protecting groups. Oxidation of the double bond with 4-methylmorpholine N-oxide in the presence of OsO<sub>4</sub> followed by NaIO<sub>4</sub> cleavage of the formed diol led to an aldehyde (which can be isolated) which was reduced to alcohol 13 by the treatment of the reaction mixture with excess of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (one pot transformation from 12). The resulting alcohol 13 was esterified by p-nitrophenyl chloroformate in pyridine to give the p-nitrophenyl carbonate 14. Reaction of 14 with 0.5 eq. of 1,3-diamino-2-  
25 hydroxypropane in THF provided the bridged trisaccharide dimer 15. Esterification of the secondary alcohol in the same manner described for compound 13 gave the activated carbonate 16, which upon condensation with an excess of 1,8-diaminoctane formed 17. Hydrogenation of 17 gave the target bridged P<sup>k</sup> cluster with amine terminated linker 18. The amino group of the spacer arm was activated as a squaric acid derivative 19. This activated derivative of the trisaccharide dimer  
30

5 was linked to a five-fold scaffold made from a functionalized glucose molecule **21** to give a pentameric presentation of trisaccharide dimers (compound **22**). Compound **22** is also referred to herein as "starfish".

10 In the Examples to follow, NMR spectra refer to assignments of various hydrogens in various positions on the compounds. The following structure shows the numbering scheme for the compounds.

## Coupling Constants and Ring Numbering



15 **Example 2: Preparation of 1,2,3,6-Tetra-O-acetyl-4-O-(3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-O-allyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose (2).** A solution of **1** (6.81 g, 11.7 mmol), NaH (95%, 0.885 g, 35.2 mmol), and allyl bromide (2.03 mL, 23.4 mmol) was refluxed for 3 h until alkylation was complete, then MeOH was added and the mixture was neutralized with acetic acid (HOAc). The mixture was filtered through Celite and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was dissolved in 60% HOAc, refluxed for 2h, and concentrated. The residue was crystallized from EtOH, the crystals were collected and dried in a desiccator over  $P_2O_5$ . A

5 mixture of the residue in pyridine (30 ml) and Ac<sub>2</sub>O (30 ml) was stirred at 60°C for  
1 h under an Ar atmosphere. The mixture was concentrated, co-evaporated three  
times with toluene and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel with  
pentane- EtOAc (7:3) to give 2 (5.79 g, 73%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.26 (d, J<sub>1,2</sub> =  
3.7 Hz, H-1 $\alpha$ ), 5.78 (Hc), 5.68 (d, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 8.3 Hz, H-1 $\beta$ ), 5.44 (dd, J = 9.3 Hz, J =  
10.2 Hz, H-3 $\alpha$ ). Calc'd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>18</sub> (676.62) C, 51.48; H, 5.96. Found C,  
10 51.38; H, 5.84.

**Example 3: Preparation of 2,3,6-Tri-O-acetyl-4-O-(3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-O-allyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl choride (3).**

15 To a solution of 2 (3.5 g, 5.17 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) Cl<sub>2</sub>CHOCH<sub>3</sub>  
(0.56 mL, 6.2 mmol) and ZnBr<sub>2</sub> (100mg) were added under an Ar atmosphere.  
The mixture was stirred for 1 h, then concentrated and the residue was  
chromatographed on silica gel with pentane-EtOAc (6:4) to give 3 (396 mg, 85%),  
[ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> +93.4° (c 1.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.22 (s, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 3.9 Hz, H-1),  
5.80 (m, 1H, Hc), 5.56 (t, 1H, J<sub>3,4</sub> and J<sub>2,3</sub> = 9.7 Hz, H-3), 5.31 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',3'</sub> = 3.5  
Hz, J<sub>4',5'</sub> = 0.8 Hz, H-4'), 5.20 (1H, Hb), 5.12 (1H, Ha), 4.93 (dd, 1H, H-2), 4.86  
20 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2',3'</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-3'), 4.58 (dd, 1H, J<sub>6a,6b</sub> = 12.1 Hz, J<sub>5,6a</sub> = 0.7 Hz, H-6a),  
4.34 (d, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 7.7 Hz, H-1'), 4.29 (dd, 1H, J<sub>5,6b</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-6B), 4.25-4.01  
25 (m, 5H, Hd, He, H-5, H-6'a, H-6'b), 3.85-3.78 (m, 2H, H-4, H-5'), 3.42 (dd, 1H, H-  
2'). Calc'd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>37</sub>ClO<sub>16</sub> (653.025) C, 49.66; H, 5.71, Cl, 5.43. Found C,  
49.68, H, 5.68, Cl, 5.73.

**Example 4: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-(2-O-allyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (4).**

30 Chloride 3 (4.4 g, 6.74 mmol) was dissolved in dry MeOH and left at room  
temperature for two days. The mixture was neutralized with Dowex 50W (H<sup>+</sup>)  
resin, the suspension was filtered and the filtrate was crystallized from EtOH to  
give 4 (1.8 g, 67%), [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -1.8° (c 0.2, H<sub>2</sub>O), m.p. 22-223 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O) δ  
5.99 (m, 1H, Hc), 5.36 (m, 1H, Hb), 5.28 (m, 1H, Ha), 4.49 (d, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 7.9 Hz,

5 H-1'), 4.41 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 8.0$  Hz, H-1), 4.34 (m, 1H, Hd), 4.26 (m, 1H, He), 3.99 (broad d, 1H, H-6a), 3.83-3.62 (m, 8H, H-3, H-4, H-5, H-6b, H-3', H-5', H-6'a, H-6'b), 3.58 (s, 3H, Me), 3.4dd, 1H,  $J_{2',3'} = 10.0$  Hz, H-2'). Calc'd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (396.38) C, 48.48; H, 7.12. Found C, 48.47, H, 7.12.

10 **Example 5: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-(2-O-allyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (5).**

Methyl  $\beta$ -lactoside 4 (1.56 g, 3.93 mmol) was lyophilised from water (20mL). To a mixture of the residue and  $\alpha,\alpha$ -dimethoxytoluene (1.2 mL, 2 eq.) in dry MeCN (15mL) toluenesulfonic acid (150 mg) was added. The mixture was refluxed for 3 min then neutralized with pyridine and concentrated.

15 Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with methylene chloride-MeOH (20:1) gave 5 (1.25 g, 64%),  $[\alpha]_D -23.1^\circ$  (c 0.4, MeOH), m.p. 212-213°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CH<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  7.55-7.33 (m, 5H, arom), 5.96 (m, 1H, Hc), 5.63 (s, 1H, CHPh), 5.27 (m, 1H, Hb), 5.12 (m, 1H, Ha), 4.52 (d, 1H,  $J_{1',2'} = 7.8$  Hz, H-1'), 4.29-4.12 (m, 6H, Hd, He, H-1, H-4', H-6'a, H-6'b), 3.88 (m, 2H, H-6a, H-6b), 3.70 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3',4'} = 3.6$  Hz,  $J_{2',3'} = 9.7$  Hz, H-3'), 3.62-3.54 (m, 3H, H-3, H-4, H-5'), 3.52 (s, 3H, Me), 3.45 (dd, 1H, H-2'), 3.42-3.37 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.23 (m, H-2). Calc'd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>11</sub> (484.49) C, 57.02; H, 6.66. Found C, 56.82, H, 6.66.

20 **Example 6: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-(2-O-allyl-3-O-benzyl-4,6-O-benzylidene- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (6).**

25 A mixture of 5 (780 mg, 1.79 mmol) and 95% NaH (235 mg, 9.33 mmol) in dry DMF (5mL) BnBr (1.1 mL, 9.33 mmol) was added. After 1h the reaction was quenched with MeOH and the mixture was diluted with EtOAc. The solution was washed with brine, and then concentrated. Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with hexane- EtOAc (7:3) gave 6 (1.35 g, 89%),  $[\alpha]_D +23.0^\circ$  (c 0.26, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), m.p. 128-129°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50-7.12 (m, 25H, arom), 5.91 (m, 1H, Hc), 5.42 (s, 1H, CHPh), 5.24 (1H, Hb), 5.13 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J = 10.5 Hz, Bn), 5.11

5 (1H, Ha), 4.86 (d, 1H,  $^2J = 11.0$  Hz, Bn), 4.41 (d, 1H,  $J_{1',2'} = 7.8$  Hz, H-1'), 4.29 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.8$  Hz, H-1), 4.29-4.19 (m, 2H, Hd, He), 4.15 (dd, 1H,  $J_{6'a,6'b} = 12.2$  Hz,  $J_{5',6'a} < 1$  Hz, H-6'a), 4.02-4.92 (m, 3H, H-4, H-6a, H-4'), 3.84 (dd, 1H,  $J_{6b,6a} = 9.5$  Hz,  $J_{5,6b} = 1.4$  Hz, H-6b), 3.80 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5',6'b} = 1.8$  Hz, H-6'b), 3.63-3.55 (m, 2H, H-2', H-3), 3.55 (s, 3H, Me), 3.44-3.38 (m, 2H, H-2, H-5), 3.28 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3',4'} = 3.7$  Hz,  $J_{2',3'} = 9.6$  Hz, H-3'), 2.85 (broad s, 1H, H-5'), 2.35 (broad s, 1H, OH). Calc'd for  $C_{51}H_{56}O_{11}$  (844.98) C, 72.49; H, 6.68. Found C, 72.41, H, 6.62.

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**Example 7: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-(2-O-allyl-3-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (7).**

15 Disaccharide 6 (2.13 g, 2.52 mmol) was dissolved in aqueous 80% acetic acid (30mL) and stirred at 80° C for 2 h. Then solvents were evaporated, co-evaporated with toluene (3x) and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel with hexane- EtOAc (4:1) to give 7 (1.6 g, 85.6%),  $[\alpha]_D +31.0^\circ$  (c 0.6,  $CHCl_3$ ), m.p. 119-120°C;  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.20-7.10 (m, 20H, arom), 5.90 (1H, Hc), 5.25 (1H, Hb), 5.13 (1H, Ha), 4.97 (d, 1H,  $^2J = 10.9$  Hz, Bn), 4.87 (d, 1H,  $^2J = 11.0$  Hz, Bn), 4.77 (d, 1H,  $^2J = 10.9$  Hz, Bn), 4.72 (d, 1H,  $^2J = 11.1$  Hz, Bn), 4.68 (s, 2H, Bn), 4.66 (d,  $^2J = 12.1$  Hz, Bn), 4.50 (d,  $^2J = 12.1$  Hz, Bn), 4.34 (d, 1H,  $J_{1',2'} = 7.9$  Hz, H-1'), 4.30 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.8$  Hz, H-1), 4.30-4.18 (m, 2H, Hc, Hd), 3.95-3.80 (m, 4H, H-4, H-6a, H-6b, H-4'), 3.62-3.38 (m, 9H, H-2, H-3, H-5, H-2', H-6'a, H-6'b, Me), 3.24 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2',3'} = 9.3$  Hz,  $J_{3',4'} = 3.4$  Hz, H-3'), 3.09 (m, 1H, H-5'), 2.58 (d, 1H,  $J_{4',OH} = 1.9$  Hz, 4'-OH), 2.02 (dd, 1H,  $J_{6'a,OH} = 4.7$  Hz,  $J_{6'b,OH} = 8.3$  Hz, 6'OH). Calc'd for  $C_{44}H_{52}O_{11}$  (756.87) C, 69.82; H, 6.92. Found C, 69.78 H, 7.00.

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**Example 8: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-(2-O-allyl-3-O-benzyl-6-O-benzoyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (8).**

30 To solution of 7(1.53 g, 2.024 mmol) in dry pyridine (10 mL) benzoyl chloride (0.235 mL, 2.024 mmol) was added dropwise at 0°C under argon atmosphere. After 3 h a few drops of water were added to the mixture and all

5 solvents were evaporated. Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with  
hexane-EtOAc (4:1) gave **8** (1.57 g, 90.2%),  $[\alpha]_D +19.7^\circ$  (c 0.6,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  
( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.00-7.98 (m, 2H, Bz), 7.58-7.13 (m, 23 H, arom), 5.90 (m, 1H, Hc),  
5.24 (m, 1H, Hb), 5.13 (m, 1H, Ha), 4.98 (d, 1H,  $^2\text{J} = 10.8$  Hz, Bn), 4.84 (d, 1H,  $^2\text{J}$   
= 11.0 Hz, Bn), 4.76-4.64 (m, 5H, Bn), 4.48 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5',6'a} = 6.6$  Hz,  $J_{6'a,6'b} = 11.2$   
Hz, H-6'a), 4.46 (d, 1H,  $^2\text{J} = 12.1$  Hz, Bn), 4.39 (d, 1H,  $J_{1',2'} = 7.8$  Hz, H-1'), 4.28  
(d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.7$  Hz, H-1), 4.28-4.16 (m, 3H, Hd, He, H-6'b), 3.98 (t, 1H,  $J_{3,4} - J_{4,5}$   
= 9.1 Hz, H-4), 3.91 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6a} = 4.0$  Hz),  $J_{6a,6b} = 10.9$  Hz, H-6a), 3.84-3.78  
(m, 2H, H-4', H-6b), 3.58 (t, 1H,  $J_{2,3} = 9.1$  Hz, H-3), 3.54 (s, 3H, Me), 3.46-3.33  
(m, 4H, H-2, H-2', H-5, H-5'), 3.26 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2',3'} = 9.3$  Hz,  $J_{3',4'} = 3.5$  Hz, H-3').  
10 Calc'd for  $\text{C}_{51}\text{H}_{56}\text{O}_{12}$  (860.98) C, 71.14; H, 6.56. Found C, 70.98 H, 6.68.  
15

**Example 9: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-[(2-O-allyl-3-O-benzyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl]-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (11).**

20 A solution of freshly prepared 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl-chloride **9** (5.63 g, 10.07 mmol) in dry toluene (30mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of **8** (5.45 g, 6.34 mmol), silver triflate (3.08 g, 12 mmol) and 2,4,6-collidine (1.6 mL, 12 mmol) in dry toluene (100 mL) at -40°C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After 2 h the mixture was transferred into a separatory funnel, washed with a solution of  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  and extracted with toluene. All solvents were evaporated and the crude product was used for the next step without purification. The product **10** was treated with a catalytic amount of NaOMe in MeOH-THF at room temperature overnight until the benzoyl group was removed. The reaction mixture was neutralized with acetic acid, concentrated, taken up into  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , washed with water and concentrated. Column chromatography (hexane-EtOAc, 4:1) of the residue yielded **11** (6.02 g, 74.3%),  $[\alpha]_D +29.7^\circ$  (c 1.2,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35-7.10 (m, 40H, arom), 5.82 (1H, Hc), 5.16 (1H, Hb), 5.08-5.03 (M, 2H, Ha, Bn), 4.96 (d, 1H,  $J_{1'',2''} = 3.3$  Hz, H-1''), 4.86-4.78 (m, 3H, Bn), 4.69-4.43 (m, 10H,  
25 26 27 28 29 30

5 Bn), 4.37 (d, 1H,  $J_{1',2'} = 7.7$  Hz, H-1'), 4.31-4.21 (m, 3H, H-1, Bn), 4.15-4.08 (m, 3H, H-5", Hc, Hd), 4.02 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2'',3''} = 10.1$  Hz, H-2"), 3.93-3.79 (m, 6H, H-4, H-6a, H-6b, H-4', H-3", H-4"), 3.70-3.57 (m, 2H, H-6'a, H-6'b), 3.54 (s, 3H, Me), 3.53 (t, 1H,  $J_{3,2} - J_{3,4} = 9.0$  Hz, H-3), 3.45-3.32 (m, 4H, H-2, H-5, H-2", H-6"a), 3.28 (dd, 1H,  $J_{6''b,6''a} = 8.9$  Hz,  $J_{5'',6''b} = 5.4$  Hz, H-6"b), 3.22-3.16 (m, 2H, H-3', H-5"). Calc'd for  $C_{78}H_{86}O_{16}$  (1279.508) C, 73.22; H, 6.77. Found C, 73.29 H, 6.86.

**Example 10: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-[(2-O-allyl-3,6-di-O-benzyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-pyranosyl]-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (12).**

Benzyl bromide (0.84 ml, 7.07 mmol) was added with stirring to a solution of 11 (6.02 g, 4.71 mmol) in DMF (50 ml) containing suspension of 95% NaH (180 mg, 7.07 mmol) at room temperature. After 3 h excess sodium hydride was decomposed by adding a few drops of methanol. Solvents were evaporated, the residue was dissolved in EtOAc, the solution was washed with brine and concentrated. Column chromatography (hexane-EtOAc, 9:1) of the residue yielded 12 (5.4 g, 83.8%),  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +34.2^\circ$  (c 0.9,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38-7.10 (m, 45H, arom), 5.91 (1H, Hc), 5.23 (1H, Hb), 5.11 (1H, Ha), 5.05-5.00 (m, 2H, H-1", Bn), 4.83 (d, 1H,  $^2\text{J} = 11.2$  Hz, Bn), 4.81 (d, 1H,  $^2\text{J} = 11.0$  Hz, Bn), 4.75-4.62 (m, 6H, Bn), 4.52-4.40 (m, 6H, H-1", Bn), 4.34-3.89 (m, 10H, H-1, H-4, H-6a, H-4', H-6'a, H-2", H-3", H-4", H5", Bn, Hd, He), 3.83 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6b} = 1.5$  Hz,  $J_{6a,6b} = 10.8$  Hz, H-6b), 3.55 (t, 1H,  $J_{3,2} - J_{3,4} = 8.0$  Hz, H-3), 3.53 (s, 3H, Me), 3.50-3.38 (m, 4H, H-5, H-2', H-6'b, H-6'a), 3.35 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2,1} = 7.9$  Hz,  $J_{2,3} = 9.1$  Hz, H-2), 3.24 (dd, 1H,  $J_{3',4'} = 5.3$  Hz,  $J_{2',3'} = 8.4$  Hz, H-3'), 3.19 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5',6'a} = 2.7$  Hz,  $J_{5',6'b} = 10.0$  Hz, H-5'), 3.12 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5'',6''b} = 4.6$  Hz,  $J_{6''a,6''b} = 8.2$  Hz, H-6'b). Calc'd for  $\text{C}_{85}\text{H}_{92}\text{O}_{16}$  (1369.63) C, 74.54; H, 6.77. Found C, 74.36 H, 6.77.

30 Example 11: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-[3,6-di-O-benzyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2-O-(2-hydroxyethyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (13).

5 A mixture of **12** (570 mg, 0.411 mmol), 4-methylmorpholine N-oxide (96 mg, 2 eq), and  $\text{OsO}_4$  (0.5 mL, 1M t-BuOH solution) in acetone (10 mL) and water (1 mL) was stirred for 3 days, then concentrated, taken up in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , washed with water, and concentrated again. The residue was dissolved in THF (15 ml) and water (5 mL) and  $\text{NaIO}_4$  (174 mg, 2 eq) was added. After 3h at 50°C  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (110 mg, 7 eq) was added. The mixture was neutralized with 1N HCl, diluted with water, and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with pentane - ethyl acetate (65:35) gave **13** (490 mg, 87%),  $[\alpha]_D^{25} +36.1^\circ$  (c 0.26,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.4-7.1 (m, 45H, arom), 5.02-4.99 (m, 2H, H-1", Bn), 4.83-4.62 (m, 8H, Bn), 4.50-4.32 (m, 6H, H-1', Bn), 4.28-4.09 (m, 7H, H-1, H-4', H-5", Bn), 4.04 (dd, 1H,  $J_{1'',2''} = 3.3$  Hz,  $J_{2'',3''} = 10.3$  Hz, H-2"), 4.02-3.70 (m, 8H, H-4, H-6a, H-6b, H-5', H-3", H-4",  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.52 (s, 3H, Me), 3.62-3.35 (m, 7H, H-3, H-5, H-2', H-6'a, H-6"b,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.33 (dd, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.7$  Hz,  $J_{2,3} = 9.0$  Hz, H-2), 3.27-3.12 (m, 3H, H-3', H-6'b, H-6"b). Calc'd for  $\text{C}_{84}\text{H}_{92}\text{O}_{17}$  (1373.62) C, 73.45; H, 6.75. Found C, 73.48, H, 6.74.

20 **Example 12: Preparation of Methyl 4-O-[3,6-di-O-benzyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2-O-(2-(4-nitrophenyloxy)ethyl)-p-D-galactopyranosyl]-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (14).**

25 A mixture of **13** (434 mg, 0.316 mmol), 4-nitrophenyl chloroformate (74 mg, 1.2 eq.) in dry pyridine (3 mL) was stirred for 4 h at 50°C, then the reaction was quenched with a droplet of water, concentrated and chromatographed on silica gel with pentane - ethyl acetate (80:20 - 75:25) to give **14** (406 mg, 85%),  $[\alpha]_D^{25} +29^\circ$  (c 0.5,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.17 (m, 2H, arom), 7.40-7.10 (m, 47H, arom), 5.02-5.00 (m, 2H, H-1", Bn), 4.85-4.62 (m, 8H, Bn), 4.50-4.40 (m, 6H, H-1', Bn), 4.32-4.20 (m, 6H, H-1, H-4',  $\text{CH}_2$ , Bn), 4.15-3.82 (m, 12H, H-4, H-6a, H-6b, H-5', H-2", H-3", H-4", H-5",  $\text{CH}_2$ , Bn), 3.54 (t, 1H,  $J_{2,3} - J_{3,4} = 9.0$  Hz, H-3), 3.50 (s, 3H, Me), 3.50-3.40, (m, 4H, H-5, H-2', H-6'a, H-6"b), 3.34 (dd, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.8$  Hz, H-2), 3.29-3.20 (m, 2H, H-6'b, H-6"b,), 3.16 (dd, 1H,  $J_{2',3'} = 8.4$  Hz,  $J_{3',4'} =$

5 4.7 Hz, H-3"). Calc'd for  $C_{91}H_{95}NO_{21}$  (1538.72) C, 71.03; H, 6.22, N, 0.91. Found C, 71.03, H, 6.29, N, 0.91.

10 **Example 13: Preparation of N,N'-Bis{2-[methyl 4-O-(3,6-di-O-benzyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside 2'-yloxy]-ethoxycarbonyl}-1,3-diamino-2-hydroxypropane (15).**

15 A solution of **14** (643 mg, 0.418 mmol) and 1,3-diamino-2-hydroxypropane (18.8 mg, 0.209 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was stirred overnight at room temperature. The mixture was concentrated and chromatographed on silica gel in hexane - ethyl acetate (7: 3, then 3 : 2) to give **15** (554 mg, 92.3%),  $[\alpha]_D +27.2^\circ$  (c 0.6,  $CHCl_3$ );  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.4-7.1 (m, 90H, arom), 5.72 (m, 2H, NH), 5.05-5.00 (m, 4H, H-1", Bn), 4.82 (d, 2H,  $^2J = 11.3$  Hz, Bn), 4.79 (d, 2H,  $^2J = 11.0$  Hz, Bn), 4.74-4.60 (m, 16H,  $OCH_2$ , Bn), 4.50-4.24 (m, 22H, H-1, H-1', H-4', Bn), 4.13-3.73 (m, 26H, H-4, H-6a, H-6b, H-5', H-6'a, H-2", H-3", H-4", H-5",  $OCH_2$ , Bn), 3.52 (t, 2H,  $J_{2,3} = 9.1$  Hz, H-3), 3.51 (s, 6H, Me), 3.50-3.22 (m, 13H, H-2, H-5, H-2', H-6'b, H-6"a, H-6"b,  $CHCH_2N$ ), 3.13 (dd, 2H,  $J_{2',3'} = 8.1$  Hz,  $J_{3',4'} = 4.7$  Hz, H-3'), 2.90-2.60 (m, 4H,  $CH_2N$ ). Calc'd for  $C_{173}H_{190}N_2O_{37}$  (2889.35) C, 71.91; H, 6.63, N, 0.97. Found C, 71.82, H, 6.71, N, 0.95.

25 **Example 14: Preparation of N,N'-Bis{2-[methyl 4-O-(3,6-di-O-benzyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside 2'-yloxy]-ethoxycarbonyl}-1,3-diamino-2-hydroxypropane p-nitrophenylcarbonate (16).**

30 A solution of **15** (552 mg, 0.191 mmol) and 4-nitrophenyl chloroformate (46 mg, 0.228 mmol) in dry pyridine was stirred overnight at 30°C. Pyridine was removed by evaporation and co-evaporation with toluene twice. Chromatography of the residue on silica gel with pentane - ethyl acetate (80:20, 60:40) gave **16** (374 mg, 75%),  $[\alpha]_D +33.6^\circ$  (c 0.6,  $CHCl_3$ );  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.1 (d, 2H,  $^3J = 9.0$  Hz), 7.4-7.1 (m, 92H, arom), 5.93 (m, 2H, NH), 5.05-5.00 (m, 4H, H-1", Bn), 4.82

5 (d, 2H,  $^2J = 11.9$  Hz, Bn), 4.77-4.56 (m, 16H, Bn), 4.49-4.24 (m, 20H, H-1, H-4', Bn), 4.13-3.73 (m, 25H, H-4, H-6a, H-6b, H-5', H-2'', H-3'', H-4'', H-5'', OCH<sub>2</sub>, CHCH<sub>2</sub>N, Bn), 3.52 (t, 2H,  $J_{2,3} - J_{3,4} = 9.0$  Hz, H-3), 3.51 (s, 6H, Me), 3.49-3.21 (m, 14H, H-2, H-5, H-6'a, H-6'b, H-6''a, H-6''b, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.12 (dd, 2H,  $J_{2',3'} = 8.2$  Hz,  $J_{3',4'} = 4.7$  Hz, H-3'), 2.81-2.66 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>N). Calc'd for C<sub>180</sub>H<sub>193</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>41</sub> (3054.45) C, 70.78; H, 6.37, N, 1.38. Found C, 70.74 H, 6.34, N, 1.36.

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**Example 15: Preparation of N,N'-Bis{2-[methyl 4-O-(3,6-di-O-benzyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-2,3,6-tri-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside 2'-yloxy]-ethoxycarbonyl}-1,3-diamino-2-(8-aminoctyl)carbamoyloxy-propane (17).**

15 A solution of **16** (350 mg, 0.115 mmol) in THF (2 ml) was added dropwise to a solution of 1,8-diaminoctane (315 mg, 1.49 mmol) in THF (1.5 ml). After 15 min TLC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: MeOH, 10:1) indicated that the reaction was completed. Concentration of the reaction mixture and column chromatography of the residue on silica gel with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: MeOH: 30%NH<sub>3</sub> (10: 1 : 0.1) gave **17** (348 mg, 98 %), [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> +28.6<sup>0</sup>(c 0.6; CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CH<sub>3</sub>OD-CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.4-7.1 (m, 90H, arom), 5.09 (d, 2H,  $^2J = 11.0$  Hz, Bn), 5.04 (d, 2H,  $J_{1'',2''} = 2.4$  Hz, H-1''), 4.8-4.55 (m, 16H, Bn), 4.52-4.03 (m, 32H, H-1, H-1', CHCH<sub>2</sub>N, CH<sub>2</sub>NHCO, CH<sub>2</sub>O, Bn), 3.96-3.78 (m, 20H, H-4, H-6a, H-6b, H-4', H-6'a, H-2'', H-3'', H-4'', CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.61 (ddd, 2H, J = 6.1 Hz, J = 9.8 Hz,  $J_{4',5'} < 1$  Hz, H-5'), 3.51 (s, 6H, OMe), 3.54-3.06 (m, 20H, H-2, H-3, H-5, H-2', H-3', H-5', H-6'b, H-6''a, H-6''b, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 3.00-2.95 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 2.79 (t, 2H,  $^3J = 7.6$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>), 1.67 (p, 2H,  $^3J = 6.2$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHCO), 1.57-1.52 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>), 1.46-1.20 (m, 7H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.90-0.83 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>). Calc'd for C<sub>182</sub>H<sub>208</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>38</sub> (3059.60) C, 71.45; H, 6.85, N, 1.83. Found C, 71.36 H, 6.91, N, 1.63.

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30 **Example 16: Preparation of N,N'-Bis{2-[methyl 4-O-(4-O-( $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside 2'-yloxy]-**

5       **ethoxycarbonyl}-1,3-diamino-2-(8-ammomiooctyl)carbamoyloxy-propane  
acetate (18).**

A solution of **17** (350 mg, 0.114 mmol) in HOAc (10 ml) was hydrogenated in the presence of 10% Pd/C (20 mg). The mixture was filtered and concentrated, and a solution of the residue in water was passed through Sep-Pak (C- 18) to give  
10      **18** (125 mg, 69%),  $[\alpha]_D +38.2^0$  (c 0.17; H<sub>2</sub>O) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR  $\delta$  4.92 (d, 2H,  $J_{1'',2''} = 3.5$  Hz, H-1''), 4.48 (m, 4 lines, 2H, H-1'), 4.37-4.29 (m, 4H, H-1, H-5''), 4.22-4.16 (m, 4H, H-4', H-4''), 4.10-3.50 (m, broad lines), 3.54 (s, 6H, OMe), 3.37 (broad t, 2H,  $J_{2',3'} = 9.1$  Hz, H-2'), 3.26 (broad t, 2H,  $J_{2,3} = 8.2$  Hz, H-2), 3.06 (t, 2H,  $^3J = 6.7$  Hz, C(O)NHCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.95 (t,  $^3J = 7.6$  Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>), 1.87 (s, 3H, Ac), 1.63 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub> 15 CH<sub>2</sub> NH<sub>2</sub>), 1.50-1.20 (m, 10H, CH<sub>2</sub>). Electrospray ionisation MS: 1437.6133 (Calcd. for C<sub>56</sub>H<sub>101</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>38</sub> 1437.6094).

20       **Example 17: Preparation of N,N'-Bis{2-[methyl 4-O-(4-O-( $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside 2'-yloxy-ethoxycarbonyl}-1,3-diamino-2-[8-(4-ethoxy-2,3-dioxo-3-cyclobutenylamino)octyl]carbamoyloxy-propane (19).**

To a solution of **18** (30.8 mg, 20.5  $\mu$ mol) in 1 mL of MeOH 3,4-diethoxy-3-cyclobuten-1,2-dione (7 mg, 41  $\mu$ mol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (4 mg, 41  $\mu$ mol) were added. After 3 h the mixture was concentrated. The residue was chromatographed on Sep-Pak (C- 18) in water-MeOH (9:1 -7:3) to give **19** (26.8 mg, 84%),  $[\alpha]_D +50.7^0$  (c 0.14; H<sub>2</sub>O). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR  $\delta$  4.96 (d, 2H,  $J_{1'',2''} = 8.9$  Hz, H-1''), 4.9-4.8 (under HOD, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.52 (m, 4 lines, 2H, H-1'), 4.38 (m, 2H, H-1), 4.34 (broad t, 2H,  $J_{5'',6''A} - J_{5'',6''B} = 6.1$  Hz, H-5''), 4.25-4.16 (m, 4H), 4.07-4.00 (m, 8H), 3.94-3.55 (m) 3.57 (s, 6H, OMe), 3.49 (t, 2H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 3.41 (broad t, 2H,  $J = 8.7$  Hz), 3.40-3.28 (m, 4H), 3.10 (t, 2H,  $^3J = 6.5$  Hz, C(O)NHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.62 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHSQ), 1.45 (t, 3H,  $^3J = 7.2$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.50-1.30 (m, 12H, CH<sub>2</sub>).  
30        Electrospray ionisation MS: 1561.6253 (Calcd. for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>105</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>41</sub> 1561.6254).

**Example 18: Preparation of Pentameric Trisaccharide Dimer 22**

5 A mixture of 1,2,3,4,6-penta-O-allyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (449 mg, 1.18 mmol) and methyl thioglycolate (2.64 mL, 25 eq.) in MeOH (3 mL) was irradiated with a UV source at 254 nm for 1h and then concentrated, Chromatography of the residue on silica gel in hexane - ethyl acetate (5:5 - 4:6) gave **20** (545 mg, 51 %).  
10  $^1$ H-NMR  $\delta$  4.12 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 7.8$  Hz, H-1), 3.90-3.45 (m, 12H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ , H-6a, H-6b), 3.67 (s, 15H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.17 (s, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}$ ), 3.17-3.11 (m, 3H, H-3, H-4, H-5), 2.96 (m, 1H, H-2), 2.68-2.63 (m, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{S}$ ), 1.9-1.75 (m, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}$ ).  
Calc'd for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{62}\text{O}_2\text{S}_5$  (911.19): C, 47.45, H, 6.86, S, 17.60. Found C, 47.32, H, 6.91, S, 17.58.

15 A solution of **20** (170 mg) in neat ethylene diamine was stirred at 60°C for 2 days, then concentrated and co-evaporated with water. A portion of the mixture was applied to a Sep-Pak cartridge which was washed with water, then the product was eluted with MeOH to give pentaamine **21**.  $^1$ H-NMR  $\delta$  4.43 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2} = 8.9$  Hz, H-1), 4.02-3.29 (m, 15H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ , H-3, H-4, H-5, H-6a, H-6b), 3.54 (t, 10H,  $^3J = 6.1$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 3.34 (s, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}$ ), 3.14 (t, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$ , 3.19-3.09 (m, 1H, H-2), 2.73-2.66 (m, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{S}$ ), 1.98-1.85 (m, 25H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}$ , Ac).

20 Bridged trisaccharide squaric acid derivative **19** (21 mg) was coupled with pentaamine **21** (1.35 mg) in MeOH (2 mL) in the presence  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (-2 mg) overnight. The reaction mixture was separated on an HPLC gel column Superdex 75 (eluent = water) to give the pentameric cluster **22** (9 mg).  $^1$ H-NMR  $\delta$  4.97 (d, 10H,  $J_{1'',2''} = 3.8$  Hz, H-1''), 4.52 (m, 4 lines, 10H, H-1'), 4.37 (m, 10H, H-1), 4.35 (t, 10H,  $J_{5'',6''a} - J_{5'',6''b} = 6.4$  Hz, H-1''), 3.1 (m, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{NHC(O)}$ ), 2.63-2.59 (m, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{S}$ ), 1.84 (broad s, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}$ ), 1.63 (broad s, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}$ ), 1.48 (broad s, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.32 (broad s, 40H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).

#### Example 19: Preparation of Pentameric Trisaccharide Dimers 23-27

5 Truncated Starfish type structures 23 and 24, including bridged P<sup>k</sup>-trisaccharide dimers, were obtained in a reaction of 19 with tetra- and trivalent glucose-based cores 29 and 30. Analogously, a series of P<sup>k</sup>-trisaccharide terminated clusters 25, 26, and 27 was synthesized by coupling the squaric acid derivative 28 with either 21, 29, or 30. The structures of these compounds are  
10 shown in Figures 7-11.

**Example 20: *In Vitro* Evaluation**

**General Method**

15 The bioassay of verotoxin inhibitors are performed in two closely related protocols. Bacterial extracts containing the verotoxin, either verotoxin I or II, or mixtures of both toxin I and II are incubated with inhibitors and added to Mammalian kidney cells (African Green Monkey kidney cells). These cells express the receptor for VTI and VTII and in the absence of inhibitor they bind verotoxin and are killed. Killed cells no longer adhere to the plate and are washed off. Giemsa stain is taken up by the remaining viable cells and the absorbance at 20 620 nm is a measure of the number of viable cells. The number of viable cells will increase with the efficacy of the inhibitor.

**Materials and Methods**

25 Bacterial strains. The E. coli strains, O157:H- (E32511), which produces SLT II/SLT IIc (Schmitt, et al., "Two copies of Shiga-like toxin II-related genes common in enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli strains are responsible for the antigenic heterogeneity of the O157:H- strain E32511," *Infect. Immun.* 59:1065-1073 (1991)) and O26:H11, (H19) which produces SLT I only, were obtained from Dr. S.M. Scotland, Division of Enteric Pathogens, Central Public Health Laboratory, London, U.K. E. coli strain C600/933W, producing SLT II

5 only, was provided by Dr. J.L. Brunton, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario.

10 Tissue culture cells. Vero cells (ATCC CCL 81, American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD) were maintained at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in minimal essential medium with Earl's salts (MEM, Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) supplemented with 3% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Gibco BRL). Confluent Vero cell monolayers were disrupted using 0.25% tissue culture grade trypsin (Gibco BRL) and approximately 10<sup>5</sup> cells in 200 mL of FBS-supplemented MEM were added to each well in 96 well microtiter plates. The microtiter plates were then incubated overnight at 37° C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

15 Preparation of bacterial extracts (toxins). Bacteria were grown overnight at 37°C on tryptic soy broth (Difco, Detroit, MI) agar plates. The polymyxin extraction procedure involved suspending the bacteria in 1 mL of 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffered (pH 7.2) physiological saline (PBS) containing 0.1 mg of polymyxin B sulfate (Sigma Chemical Co. St. Louis, MO) as described previously (Karmali, et al., "Sensitive method for detecting low numbers of verotoxin-producing Escherichia coli in mixed cultures by use of colony sweeps and polymyxin extraction of verotoxin," *J.Clin.Microbiol.* 22:614-619 (1985)). After incubating the mixtures at 37°C for 30 min, the extracts were centrifuged for 10 min in a Eppendorf (Fisher Scientific) model 5413 table top centrifuge. The resulting supernatant solutions were then filter sterilized through Millipore (Millipore Corp., Bedford, MA) Millex-GV 0.22 mm filter units.

#### Vero cytotoxicity neutralization assays

20 In essence the difference between protocols I and II involves the period for which vero cells are exposed to toxin. Protocol I removes toxin after a 1 hour incubation and cells are then left to grow for 72 hours. Protocol II co-incubates

30

5 verotoxin, inhibitor and vero cells for the full 72 hour period and assays viability  
immediately assayed viable cells.

Protocol I (also sometimes called Antibody Protocol)

According to protocol I, the *E. coli* polymyxin extracts were diluted 10 times into unsupplemented MEM and dispensed into 96 well microtiter mixing plates, 180  $\mu$ L per well, containing no Vero cells. Twenty  $\mu$ L of each inhibitor, dissolved in unsupplemented MEM, was then added to the appropriate wells in these microtiter mixing plates. The FBS-supplemented MEM was discarded from the microtiter plates, prepared as described above, containing the Vero cell monolayers. The inhibitor-extract samples were then immediately transferred from the 96 well mixing plates into the emptied wells in the Vero cell microtiter plates. Diluted bacterial extracts to which no inhibitors were added served as controls. These Vero cell microtiter plates were incubated at 37°C for 1 h and the medium in each well was then removed using a multichannel automatic pipetor. Each of the emptied wells were carefully washed with 200  $\mu$ L of fresh FBS-supplemented MEM. This wash solution was discarded and replaced with 200  $\mu$ L of fresh FBS-supplemented MEM and the microtiter plates were incubated for 72 h at 37°C.

25 The growth medium was then aspirated from each of the wells in the 96 well microtiter plates and Vero cells which remained viable were fixed to the plastic with 95% methanol and stained with Giemsa stain (Fisher). The results were recorded using a microtiter plate reader set at a wavelength of 620 nm as described previously (2). The resulting absorbance data were plotted versus inhibitor concentration. Individual experiments were always performed in duplicate and, unless otherwise indicated, repeated at least two times.

30 Protocol II (also called incubation protocol)

5                   Inhibitors were mixed with bacterial extracts in FBS-supplemented MEM and added to the Vero cell microtiter plates as described above. These plates were then incubated for 72 h at 37°C.

10                  The growth medium was then aspirated from each of the wells in the 96 well microtiter plates and Vero cells which remained viable were fixed to the plastic with 95% methanol and stained with Giemsa stain (Fisher). The results were recorded using a microtiter plate reader set at a wavelength of 620 nm as described previously (Samuel, J.E., et al., "Comparison of the glycolipid receptor specificities of Shiga-like toxin type II and Shiga-like toxin type II variants," *Infect. Immun.* 58:611-618 (1990)). The resulting absorbance data were plotted 15 versus inhibitor concentration. Individual experiments were always performed in duplicate and, unless otherwise indicated, repeated at least two times.

20                  Evaluated Compounds. The compounds tested include a bridged Pk dimer and a conjugate of Pk with bovine serum albumin (BSA). Toxins produced by various strains of *E. coli* were evaluated in this study. The results are shown in Figures 3a-j.

Results. These data demonstrate that at all concentrations, and with all of the toxins tested, the bridged Pk dimers are more effective than a Pk-BSA conjugate at inhibiting cell lysis caused by the SLT.

25                  **Example 21: Comparison of the efficacy of Pk trisaccharides, bridged Pk trisaccharide dimers and multivalent bridged Pk trisaccharides**

                        The ability of bridged dimers and trimers of di- and tri-saccharides to bind toxins was compared with that of the corresponding di- and tri-saccharides. Bridges between two di-saccharides, a mixture of a di-saccharide and a tri-saccharide, and two tri-saccharides were formed by reacting a hydroxy group on

5 the Pk disaccharides or trisaccharides with p-nitrophenyl carbonate, and forming two urea linkages (hence forming a dimer) by reaction with a diamine.

An ELISA assay was performed comparing the bridged dimers to a Pk tri-saccharide, and the  $IC_{50}$  values for each of the compounds was obtained, the results of which are shown in Figure 4.

10 Verotoxin I dissolved in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) ( 2.5 micrograms per mL) was coated on 96 well ELISA plates overnight at 4 degrees. The plate was washed 4 times with PBS containing Tween 20 (0.05% v/v). The plate was blocked with milk (Difco) 2.5% in PBS for 1 hr. The plate was then washed twice with PBS containing Tween 20 (PBST).

15 A Pk trisaccharide conjugated to BSA and biotinylated (10 micrograms per mL) was mixed with inhibitor at concentrations in the range 0.1 nanomolar to 10 millimolar. The mixture was added to the coated microtitre plate and incubated at room temperature for 18 hr. The plate was washed 4 times with PBST and streptavidin horseradish peroxidase was added and incubated for 1 hr at room 20 temperature. The plate was washed 4 times with PBST and TMB horse radish peroxidase substrate was added and after 2 minutes the color reaction was stopped with 1M phosphoric acid. Absorbance was read at 450 nm and percent inhibition was calculated using wells containing no inhibitor as the reference 25 point.

As shown in Figure 4, the  $IC_{50}$  for the Pk trisaccharide was 2100  $\mu$ M, the bridged dimer of two Pk disaccharides was 970  $\mu$ M, the bridged dimer of a Pk disaccharide and a Pk tri-saccharide was 260  $\mu$ M, and the bridged dimer of two Pk trisaccharides was 55  $\mu$ M. This data demonstrates that the bridged dimers are 30 more active than the monomers. The bridged dimer of two Pk trisaccharides was 38 times higher than the Pk trisaccharide alone, yet only includes twice the number

5 of saccharide moieties. Accordingly, the bridged dimers and trimers are more active than the monomeric di- or trisaccharides, even without being bound to a linker arm, and subsequently bound to a multifunctional core molecule.

10 However, when the Pk trisaccharide and the bridged dimer of trisaccharides was compared to Compound 22 (“starfish”) as disclosed herein, using a similar ELISA, the starfish molecule was about 10,000 times more active than the bridged trisaccharide dimer and about a million times more active than the trisaccharide alone.

**Example 22: Evaluation of the Inhibitory Power of Compounds 22-27**

15 Using Protocols A and B(shown below), the inhibitory power of compounds 22-27 was evaluated. The data are shown below in Tables 1-3.

5

Table 1. Inhibitory power of  $P^k$ -trisaccharide analogues determined by Protocol A (SLT-1 immobilized on the plate).

Compound	Number of $P^k$ -trisaccharide ligands	$IC_{50}$ (M)
$P^k$ -trisaccharide methyl glycoside	1	$2 \times 10^{-3}$
Bridged $P^k$ -trisaccharide methyl glycoside dimer	2	$5.5 \times 10^{-5}$
<b>27</b>	3	$3.5 \times 10^{-6}$
<b>26</b>	4	$3.5 \times 10^{-7}$
<b>25</b>	5	$2.4 \times 10^{-8}$
<b>24</b>	6	$4.8 \times 10^{-8}$
<b>23</b>	8	$1.6 \times 10^{-9}$
<b>22</b>	10	$2.3 \times 10^{-10}$

10

15

Table 2. Inhibitory power of  $P^k$ -trisaccharide analogues determined by Protocol B (SLT-1 in solution,  $P^k$  glycoside immobilized on the plate).

20

25

Compound	Number of $P^k$ -trisaccharide ligands	$IC_{50}$ (M)
<b>27</b>	3	$1.36 \times 10^{-5}$
<b>26</b>	4	$3.4 \times 10^{-6}$
<b>25</b>	5	$1.23 \times 10^{-6}$
<b>24</b>	6	$4.7 \times 10^{-7}$
<b>23</b>	8	$3.3 \times 10^{-9}$
<b>22</b>	10	$4.0 \times 10^{-10}$

5

Table 3. Inhibition power of P<sup>k</sup>-trisaccharide analogues. Protocol B (SLT-2 in solution, P<sup>k</sup> glycoside immobilized on the plate).

10

Compound	Number of P <sup>k</sup> -trisaccharide ligands	IC <sub>50</sub> (M)
<b>24</b>	6	2.9 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>
<b>23*</b>	8	9 x 10 <sup>-9</sup>
<b>22*</b>	10	6 x 10 <sup>-9</sup>

\* activity was underestimated due to relatively high concentration of SLT-2 in solution.

#### Protocol A

Verotoxin I dissolved in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) ( 2.5 micrograms per mL) was coated on 96 well ELISA plates overnight at 4 degrees. The plate was washed 4 times with PBS containing Tween 20 (0.05% v/v). The plate was blocked with milk (Difco) 2.5% in PBS for 1 hr. The plate was then washed twice with PBS containing Tween 20 (PBST).

A P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide conjugated to BSA and biotinylated (10 micrograms per mL) was mixed with inhibitor at concentrations in the range 0.1 nanomolar to 10 millimolar. The mixture was added to the coated microtitre plate and incubated at room temperature for 18 hr. The plate was washed 4 times with PBST and streptavidin horseradish peroxidase was added and incubated for 1 hr at room temperature. The plate was washed 4 times with PBST and TMB horse radish peroxidase substrate was added and after 2 minutes the colour reaction was stopped with 1M phosphoric acid. Absorbance was read at 450 nm and percent inhibition was calculated using wells containing no inhibitor as the reference point.

#### Protocol B

5           A synthetic P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide attached to a C16 aglycon terminated by an  $\omega$ -thiol and oxidized to the corresponding disulphide was dissolved in PBS (10 micrograms per mL) and 96 well ELISA plates were coated by incubation of 100 microlitres per well overnight at 4 degrees. The plate was washed 5 times with PBST and blocked for 1 hour at room temperature by incubation with 1% BSA in  
10           PBS.

15           The plate was washed three times with PBST and verotoxin was added to the plate (VT-1 at 0.05 micrograms/mL or VT-2 at 0.1 micrograms/mL). The verotoxin solution with or without inhibitor was incubated for 18 hours at room temperature. The plate was washed 5 times with PBST and rabbit anti- VT1 or  
VT2 solution (100 microliters/well) diluted (1:1000) in PBS was incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. After the plate had been washed 5 times with PBST, commercial goat anti- rabbit antibody solution (100 microliters/well) diluted (1:2000) in PBS was incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. The plate was washed 5 times with PBST and TMB horse radish peroxidase substrate was added  
20           and after 1-2 minutes the colour reaction was stopped by addition of 1M phosphoric acid (100 microliters/well). Absorbance was read at 450 nm and percent inhibition was calculated using wells containing no inhibitor as the reference point.

#### **Activity of the Starfish Structures with SLT-1 and SLT-2**

25           Solid phase binding assays using Protocol B allows activities for SLT-2 (graph) to be measured for the first time and compared with the activity of SLT-1. This data shows that SLT-1 is about 7 fold more active in binding Gb<sub>3</sub> than SLT-2. Since the SLT-1 K<sub>D</sub> for P<sup>k</sup> was about 1 mM the much lower affinity exhibited by SLT-2 explains why previous weak inhibitors of SLT-1 were such poor or non-existent inhibitors of SLT-2.

5        The bar graphs demonstrate that solid phase assays using either protocol A or B give similar IC<sub>50</sub> values for the inhibitors tested. The data further show that the Starfish molecule 22 is by far the most active inhibitor of SLT-1 binding to P<sup>k</sup> ligand. As the core of the molecule is truncated so that progressively fewer ligands are presented to the toxin molecule, binding avidity drops off in dramatic fashion.

10      This points to the optimum activity of a fivefold array capped by bridged dimers, compound 22. Starfish molecules in which a single P<sup>k</sup> trisaccharide caps the pentameric core molecule, compound 25 are 500-1000 fold less active when compared to 22. When the fivefold array is capped for these monomeric ligand compounds 26 and 27, the activity drops by several orders of magnitude.

15      The combined data point to the preferred construct 22 as the most potent inhibitor of SLT binding to its natural receptor. This is consistent with the now solved crystal structure for the SLT-1 Starfish 22 complex which is described in the schematic drawing.

20      While the present invention has been described with reference to what are considered to be the preferred examples, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed examples. To the contrary, the invention is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

5

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A compound of the following structure:



wherein:

MFC is a multifunctional core molecule,

10 LA is a linker arm,

BM is a bridging molecule which includes at least one ligand which binds to a toxin,

n is, independently, between 3 and 20,

the bridging moieties are bound to at least one linker arm,

15 the linker arms are, independently, C6-20 straight, branched or cyclic alkanes, in which one or more of the carbons may optionally be replaced with an O, S, or amine, and the linker arms can optionally be functionalized at one or more positions with a functional group selected from the group consisting of aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic,

20 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein the multifunctional compound is selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, oligosaccharides, aldaric acids, amino acids, peptides, acrylamides, cyclodextrins, phthalocyanins and polyhydroxy alkanes.

3. The compound of claim 1 wherein at least one of the linker arms is selected from the group consisting of polymethylene, aryl groups, aralkyl groups, alkaryl groups, alkylcycloalkanes, polyalkylene glycols, alkyl diamines, alkyl thio amines, and alkyl dithiols.

5        4. The compound of claim 1 wherein the bridging moieties include at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of carbamoyl, amide, carboxylic acid, hydroxy, thiol, amine, aldehyde, ketone, thioacid, thioester, thiourea, sulfonic acid, and phosphoric acid.

10      5. The compound of claim 1 wherein at least one of the ligands is a dimer or trimer including a saccharide selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal,  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ GlcNAc and  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Glc., wherein the aglycon of the terminal reducing saccharide is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, allyl or the corresponding thio analogues.

15      6. The compound of claim 1 wherein the number of linker arms is between 3 and 20.

19      7. The compound of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for administration to a patient.

20      8. The compound of claim 1 wherein the linker is designed to bridge the spacing between the binding sites on proximal lectin subunits or proximal lectin molecules in a toxin including those moieties.

25      9. A method for treating a bacterial infection mediated by a toxin in a subject comprising administering to the subject in need of such treatment an amount sufficient to treat the infection of a composition comprising a compound of claim 1.

30      10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound includes the oligosaccharide sequence  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal.

35      11. The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound includes the oligosaccharide sequence  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ GlcNAc.

40      12. The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound includes the oligosaccharide sequence  $\alpha$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Gal(1-4) $\beta$ Glc.

45      13. The method of Claim 9 wherein the linker arm comprises from 6 to 10 carbon atoms.

50      14. The method of Claim 9 wherein the linker arm is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>8</sub>C(O)-.

15. The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound is covalently bound to or adsorbed onto a solid inert affinity support.
16. The method of Claim 9 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to the patient prior to organ involvement other than intestinal involvement.
17. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound is administered orally.
18. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound is administered via injection.
19. The method of claim 9 wherein the toxin is a pentameric toxin.
20. The method of claim 9 wherein the toxin is selected from the group consisting of SLTs, verotoxins, cholera toxin, *clostridium difficile* toxins A and B, bacterial pili from enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) and enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC).
21. The method of claim 20 wherein the SLTs are present in *salmonella* or *camylobacter* bacteria.
22. The method of claim 9 wherein the toxin is selected from the group consisting of viral lectins.
23. A method for diagnosing bacterial infections mediated by toxins in a patient comprising obtaining a biological sample from the patient and assaying for the presence of the toxin in a binding assay which uses a compound according to claim 1 to bind to the toxin.
24. The method of claim 23 wherein the compound includes a label selected from the group consisting of radiolabels, fluorescent tags, biotin, streptavidin, and enzymes which enable the compound to be detected after it has been bound to the toxin.
25. The method of claim 1 wherein BM is a bridging molecule which includes two or more di- or tri-saccharides, and which can optionally include large oligosaccharides, n is, independently, between 3 and 20, the di- or tri-saccharide moiety are optionally linked to between one and eight additional saccharide moieties, and include an individual saccharide moiety

selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Glc,  
 $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ GlcNAc, and  $\alpha$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Gal(1 $\rightarrow$ 4) $\beta$ Glc,

1/26

Barili, P. L.; Catalani, G.; D'Andrea, F.; Rensis, F. D.; Falcini, P.  
*Carbohydr. Res.* 1997; 298; 75-84.

D-Lactose

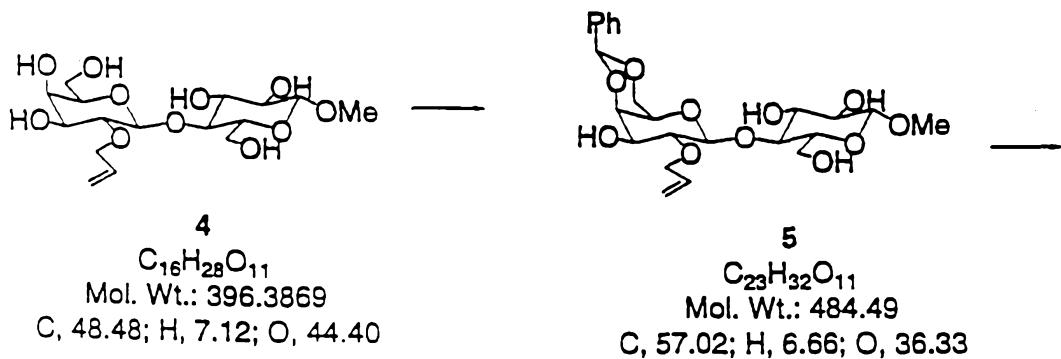
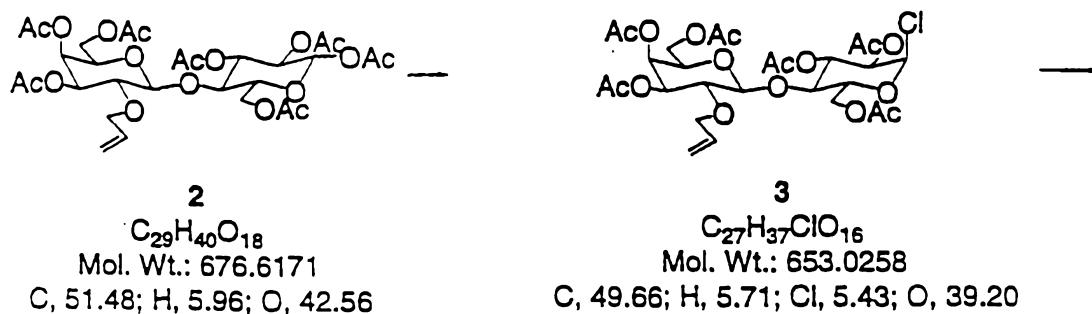
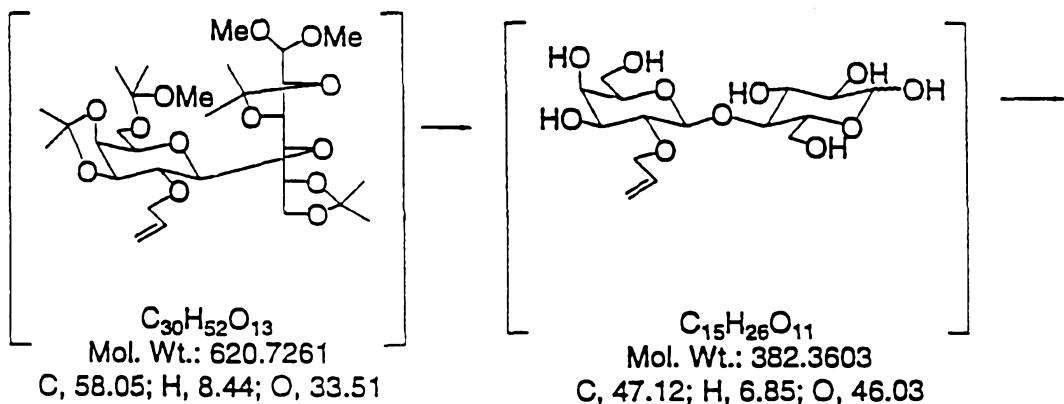
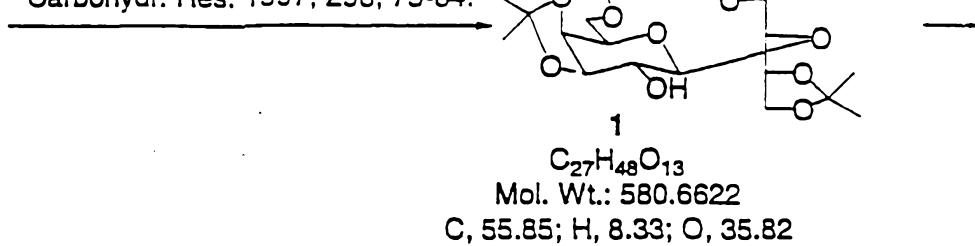


Figure 1A

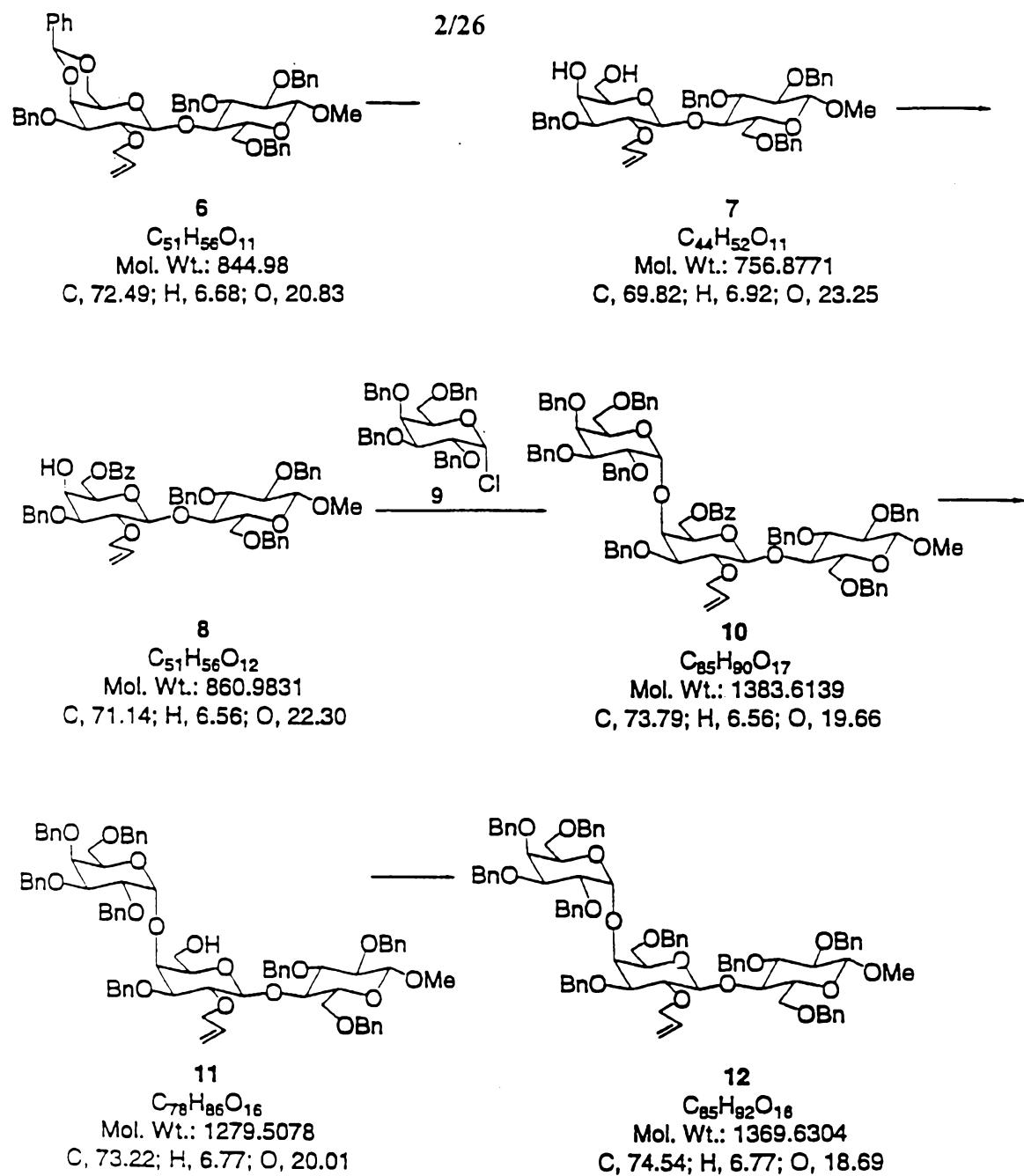


Figure 1A contd.

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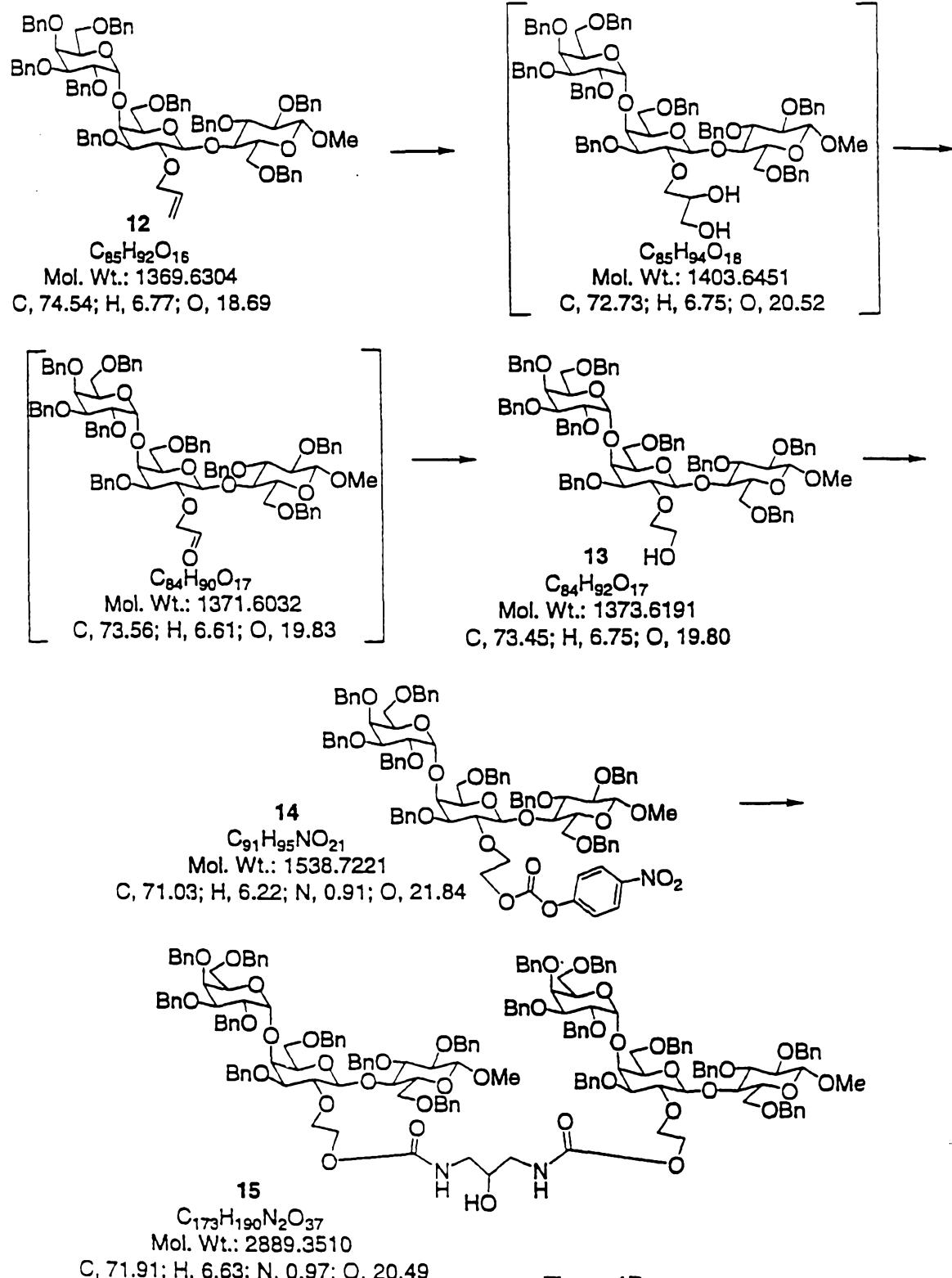


Figure 1B

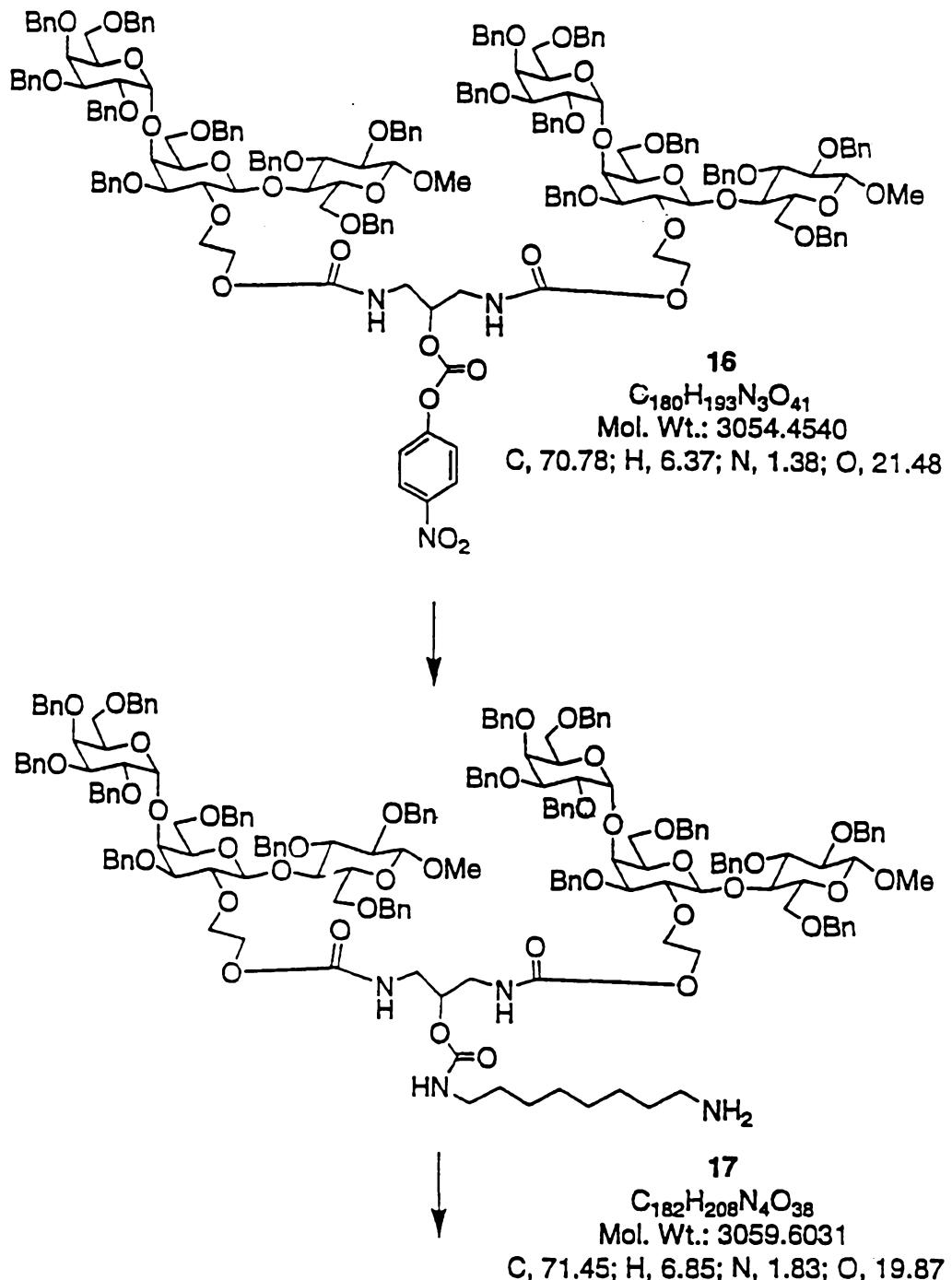
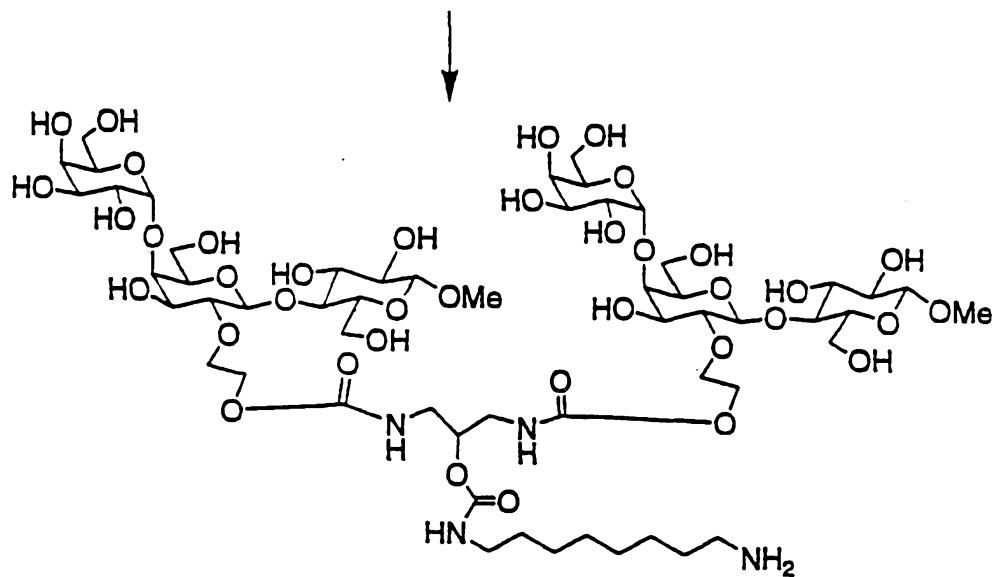
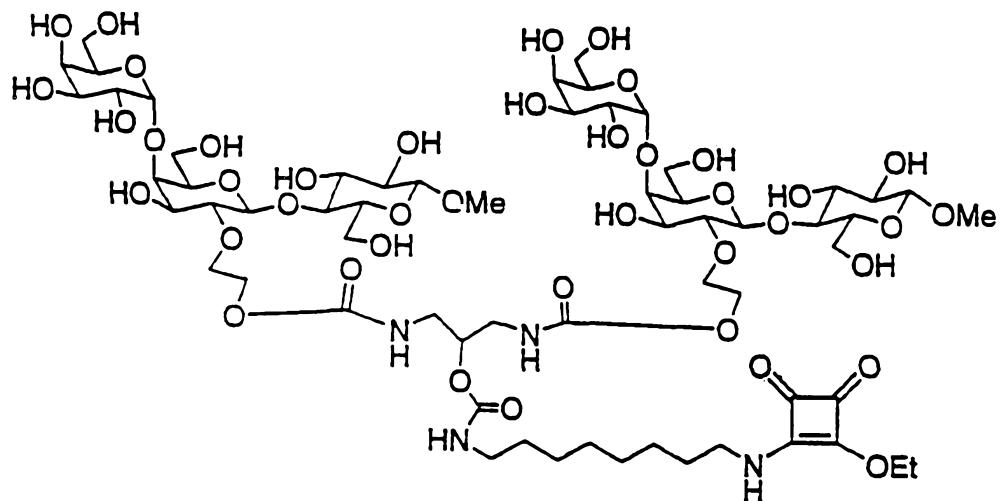


Figure 1C

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18  
 $C_{56}H_{100}N_4O_{38}$   
 Mol. Wt.: 1437.3974  
 C, 46.79; H, 7.01; N, 3.90; O, 42.30



19  
 $C_{62}H_{104}N_4O_{41}$   
 Mol. Wt.: 1561.4915  
 C, 47.69; H, 6.71; N, 3.59; O, 42.01

Figure 1C contd.

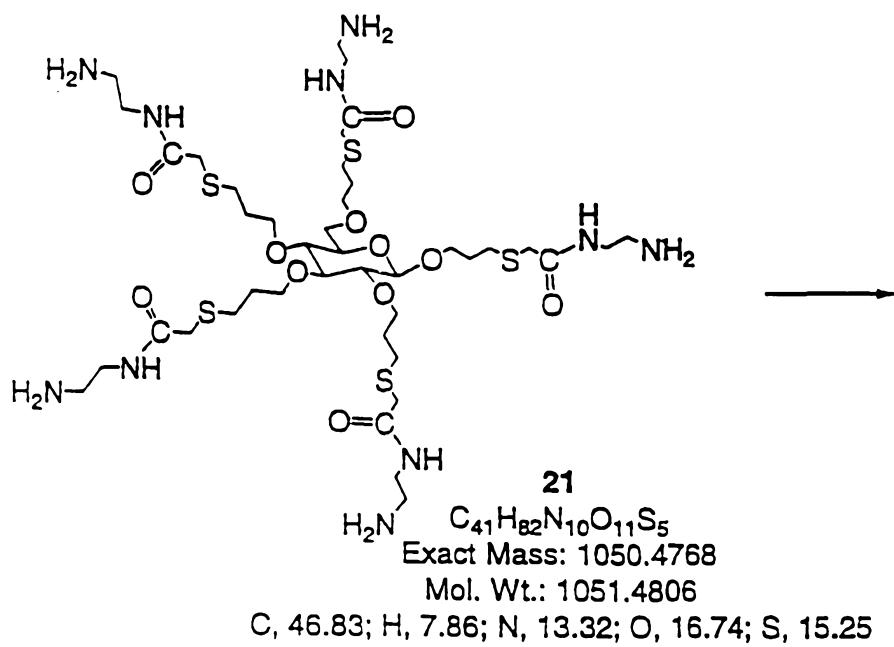
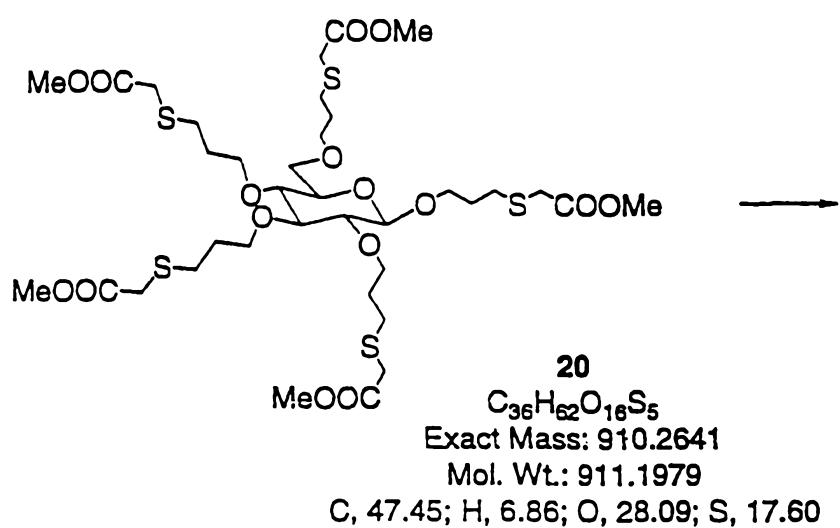
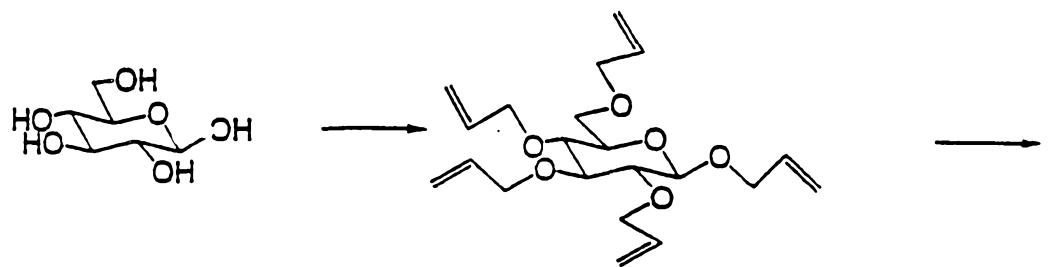


Figure 1D

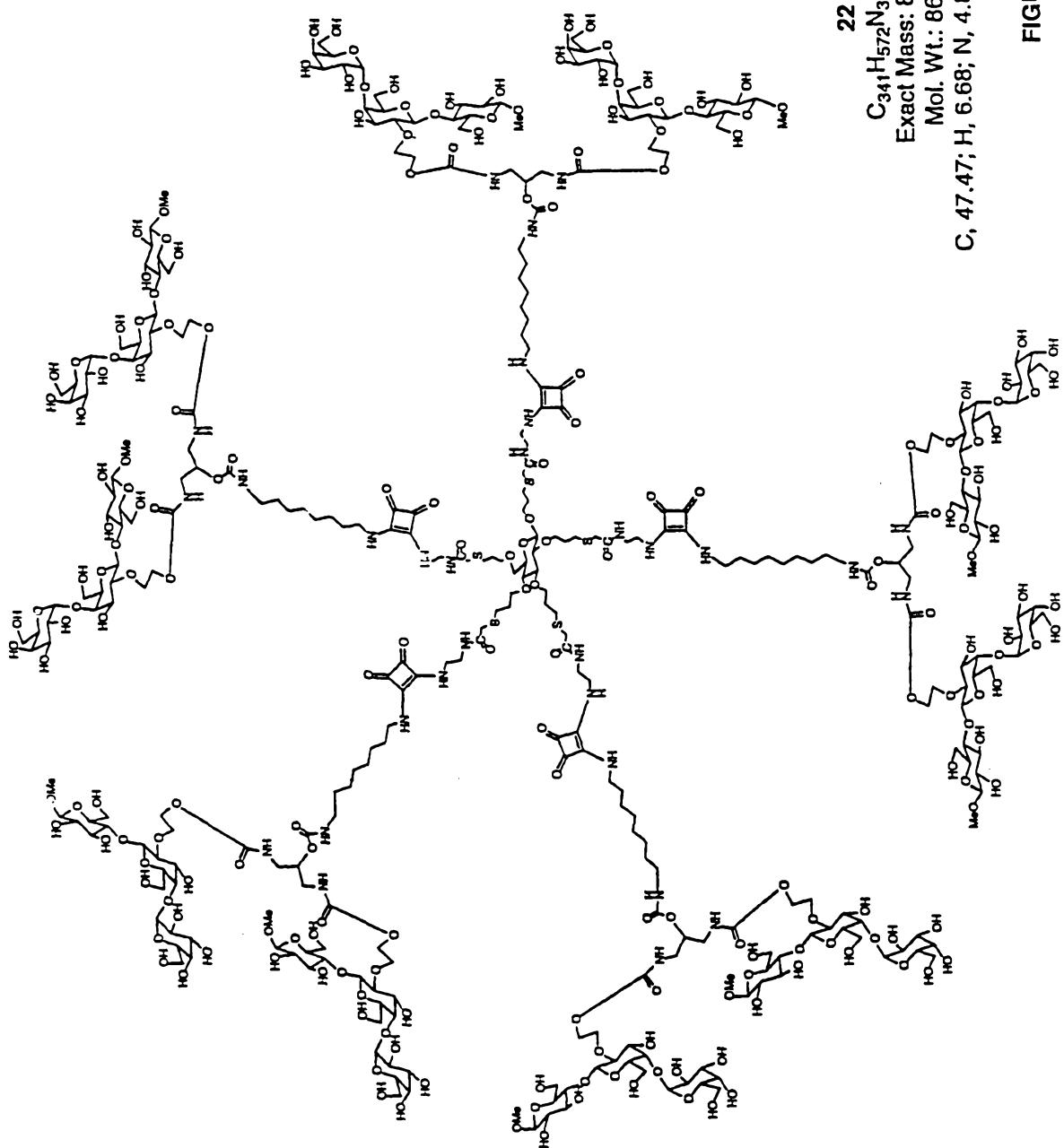


FIGURE 1D contd.

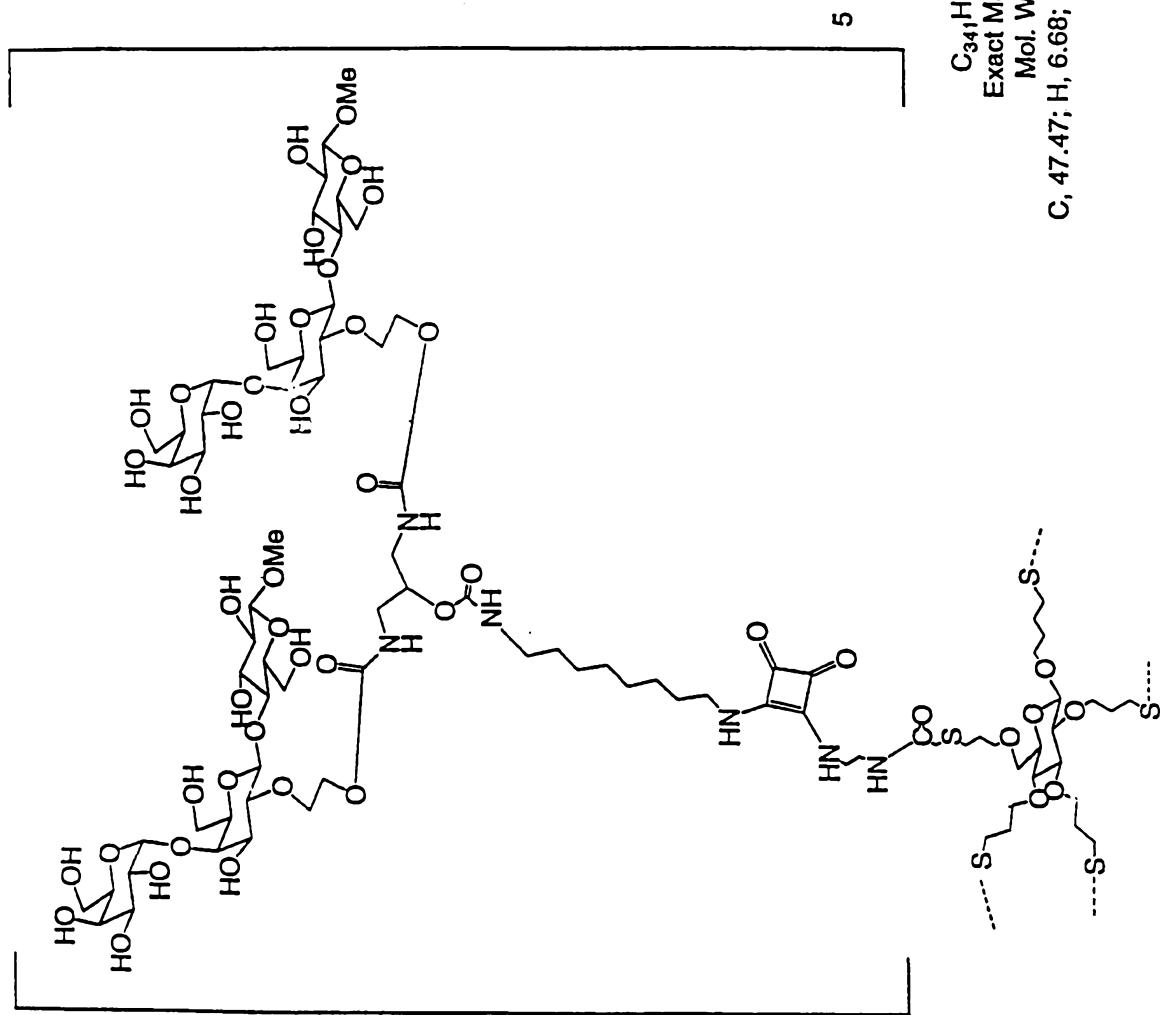


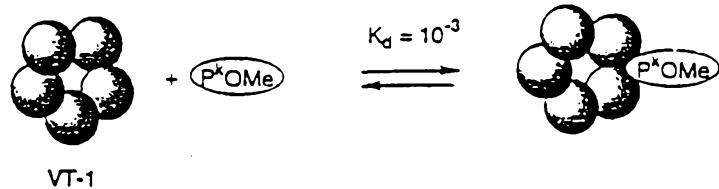
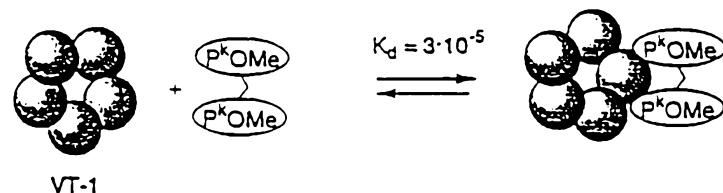
FIGURE 1D contd.

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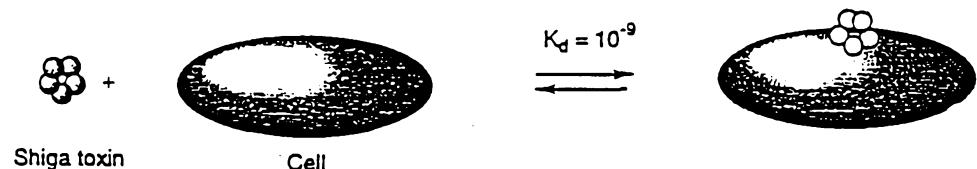
## Inhibitor "Starfish" Activity

## Comparison of Verotoxin-1 Affinity with Various Ligands

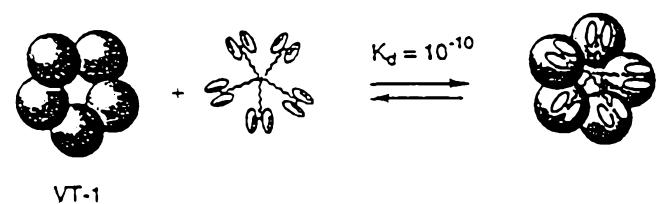
General Point: the binding subunits of VT-1 and Shiga toxin are identical

St. Hilaire, P. M., Boyd, M. K., and Toone, E. J., *Biochemistry*, 1994, 33, 14452-14463.

P. Kitov and D.R. Bundle unpublished data.



Fuchs, G., Mobassaleh, M., Donohue-Rolfe, A., Montgomery, R. K., Gerard, R. J., and Keusch, G. T.

*Infect. Immun.* 1986, 53, 372-377.

P. Kitov and D.R. Bundle unpublished data

FIGURE 2

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Verocytotoxicity Neutralization Assay  
Ab Protocol  
Comparison of Bridge-PK vs. PK=BSA at Neutralizing SLT I (026.H11)  
98003

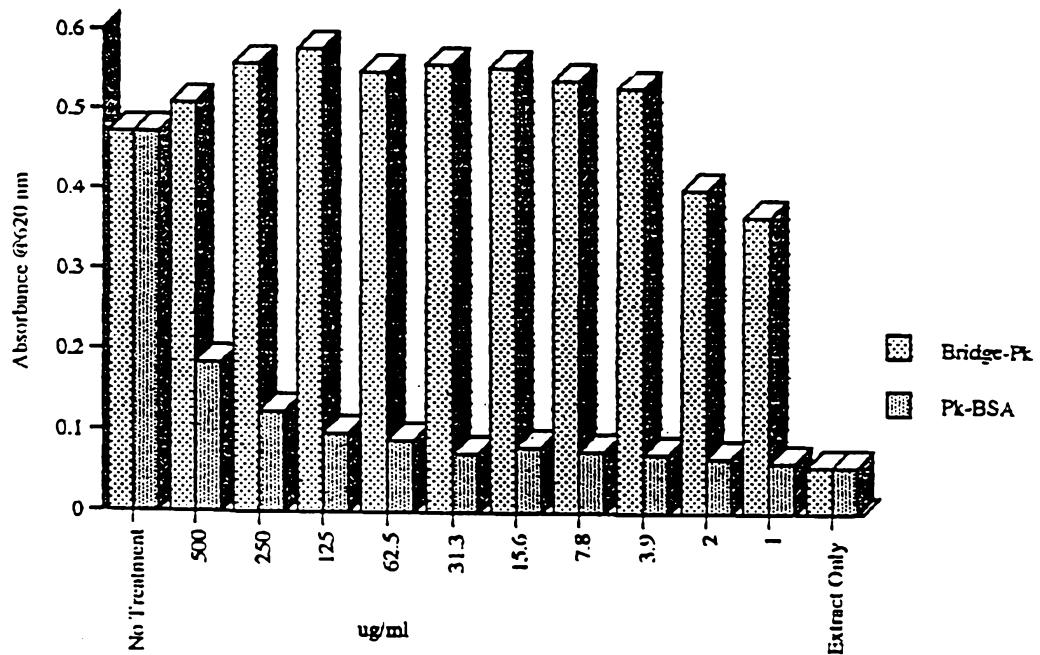


FIGURE 3A

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Verocytotoxicity Neutralization Assay  
Ab Protocol  
Comparison of Bridge-Pk vs. Pk-BSA at Neutralizing SLT I (026.H11)  
98012

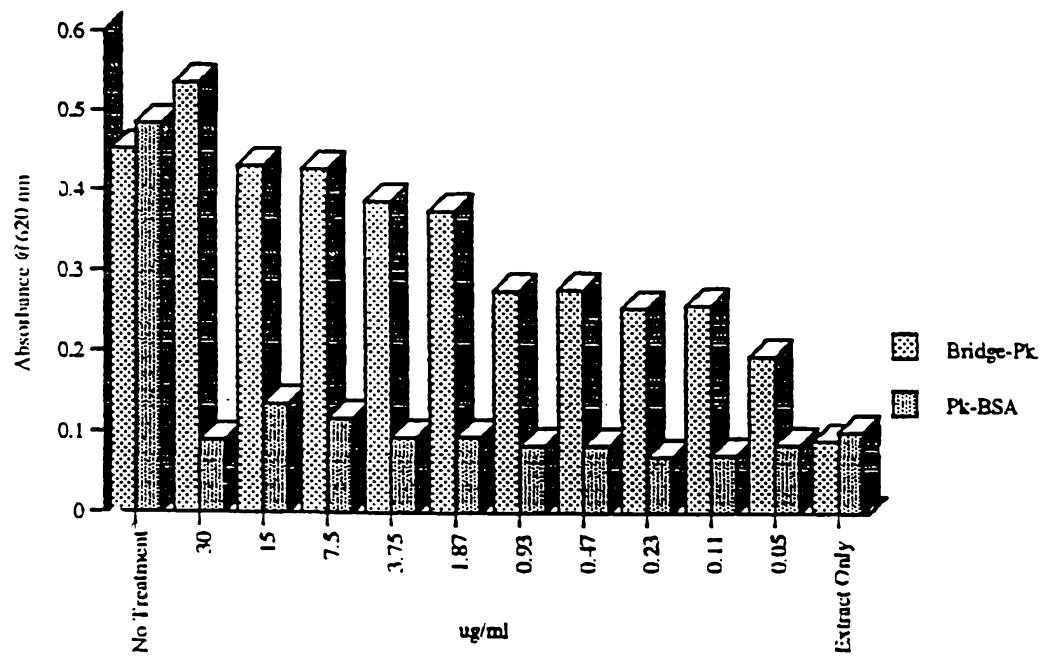


FIGURE 3B

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Verocytotoxicity Neutralization Assay  
Co-Incubation Protocol  
Comparison of Bridge-Pk vs. Pk=BSA at Neutralizing SLT I (026.H11)  
98004

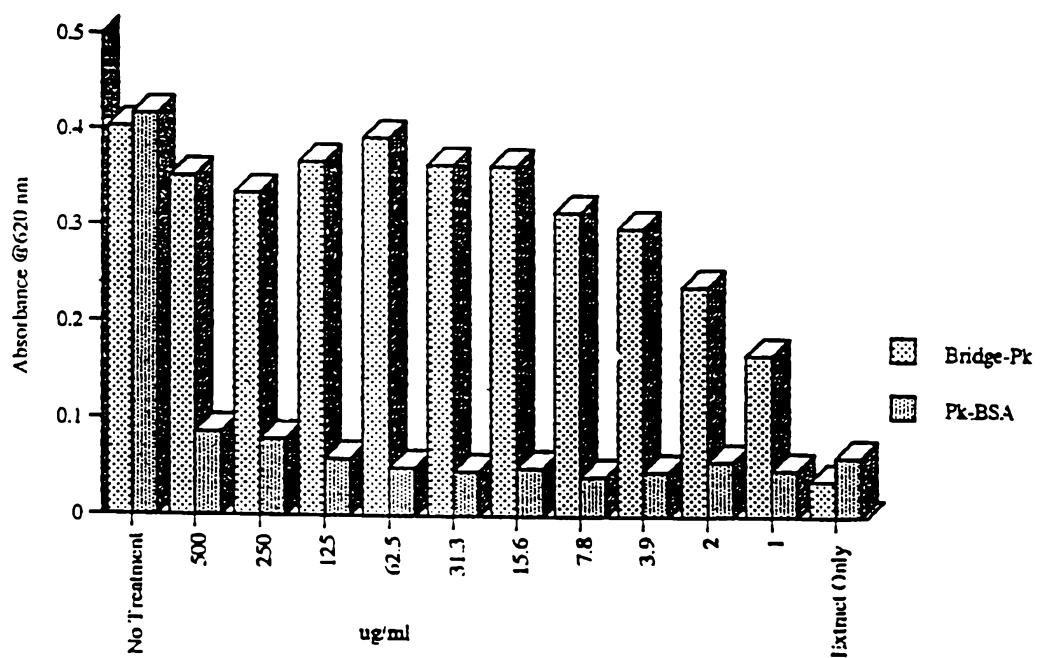


FIGURE 3C

13/26

Verocytotoxicity Neutralization Assay  
Co-Incubation Protocol  
Comparison of Bridge-PK vs. PK=BSA at Neutralizing SLT I (026.H11)  
98011

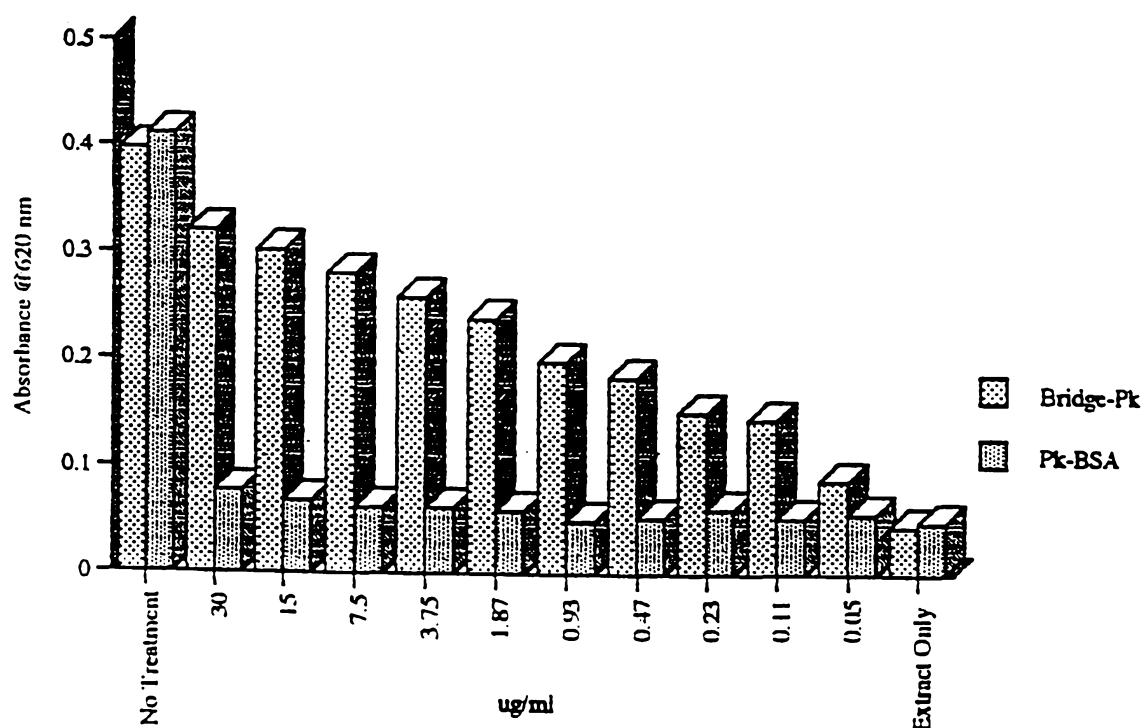


FIGURE 3D

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## Inhibition ELISA : SLT-1 vs. Bridged Inhibitors

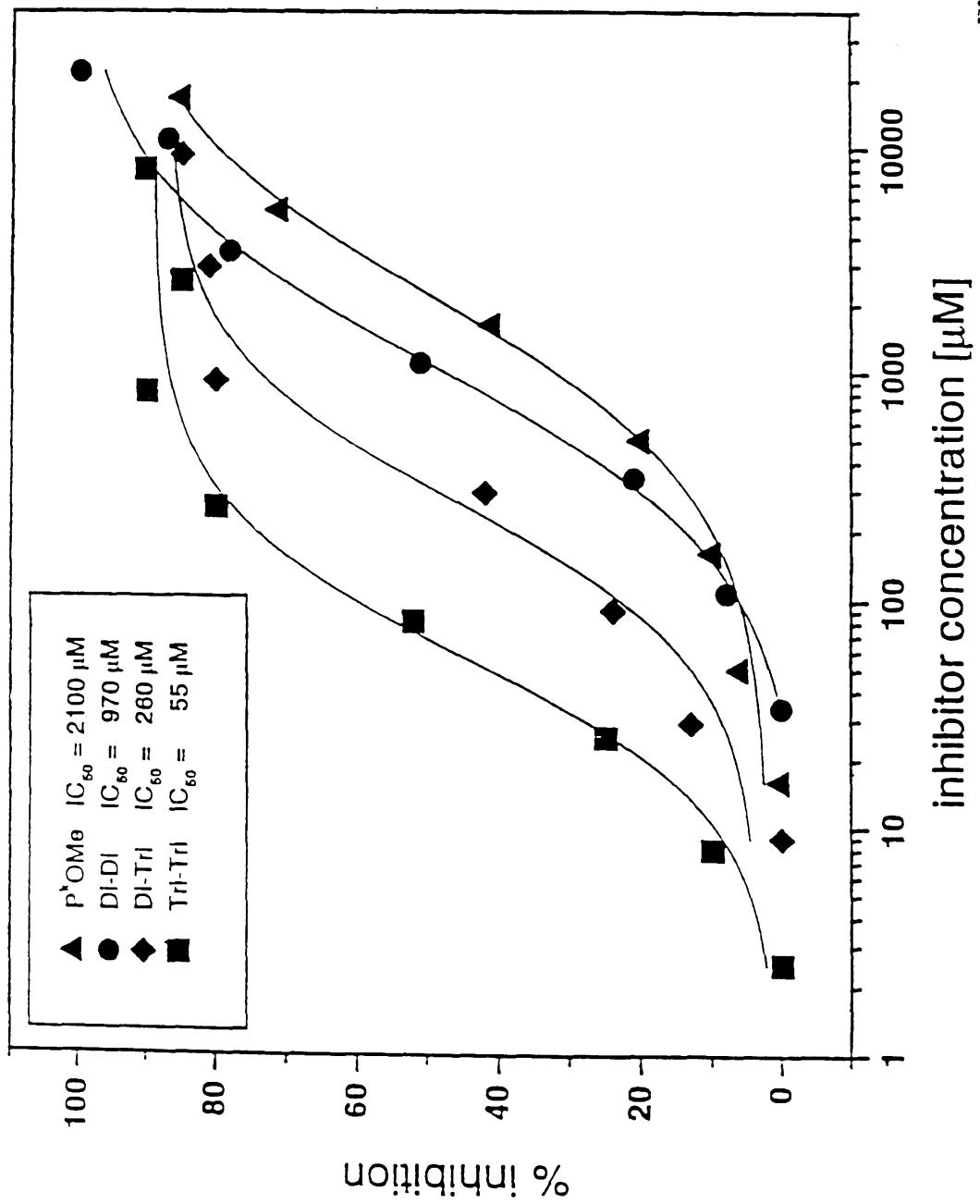


FIGURE 4

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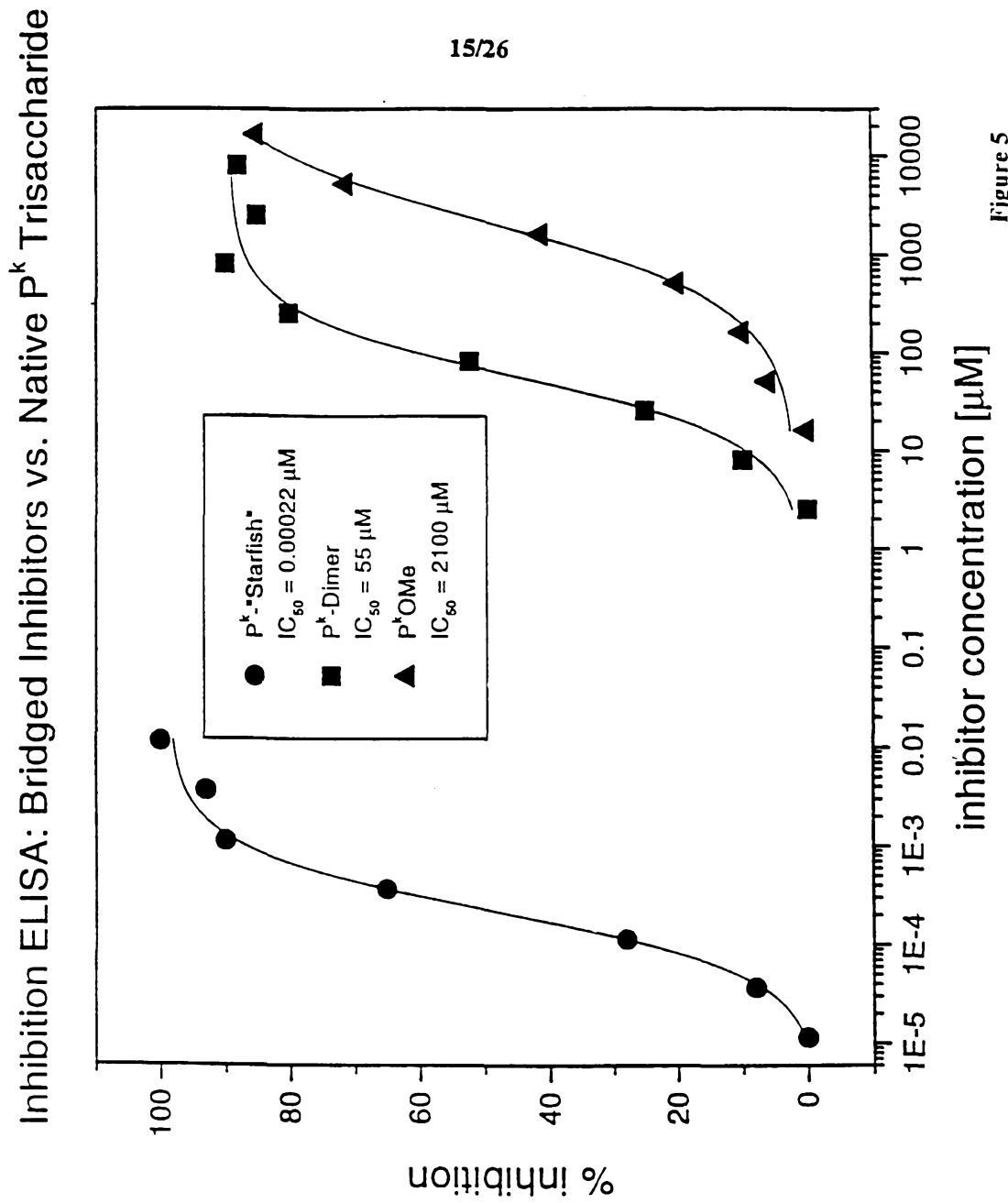


Figure 5

16/26

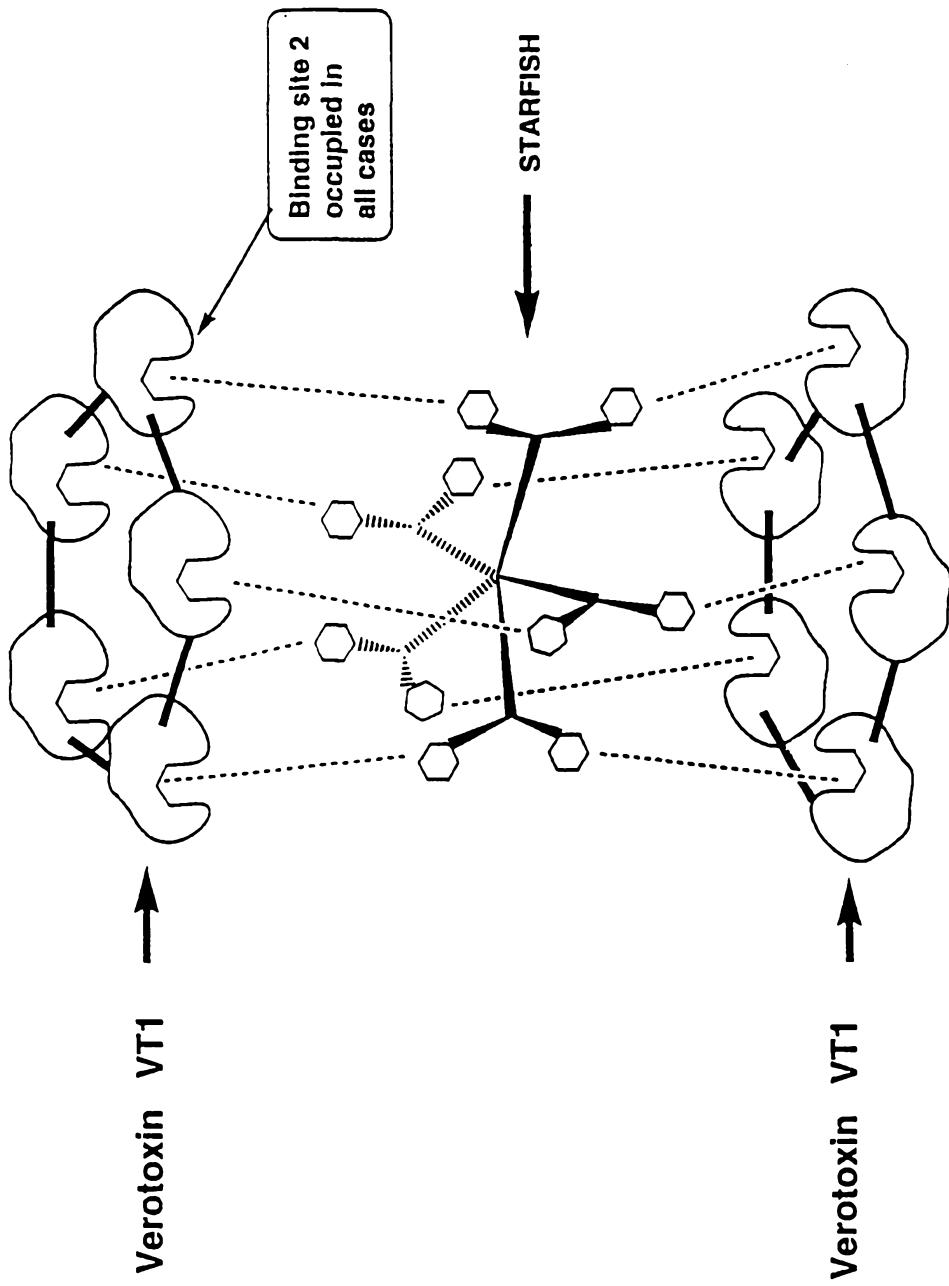
Schematic of the Complex between Verotoxin and Bridged P<sup>K</sup> STARFISH

Figure 6

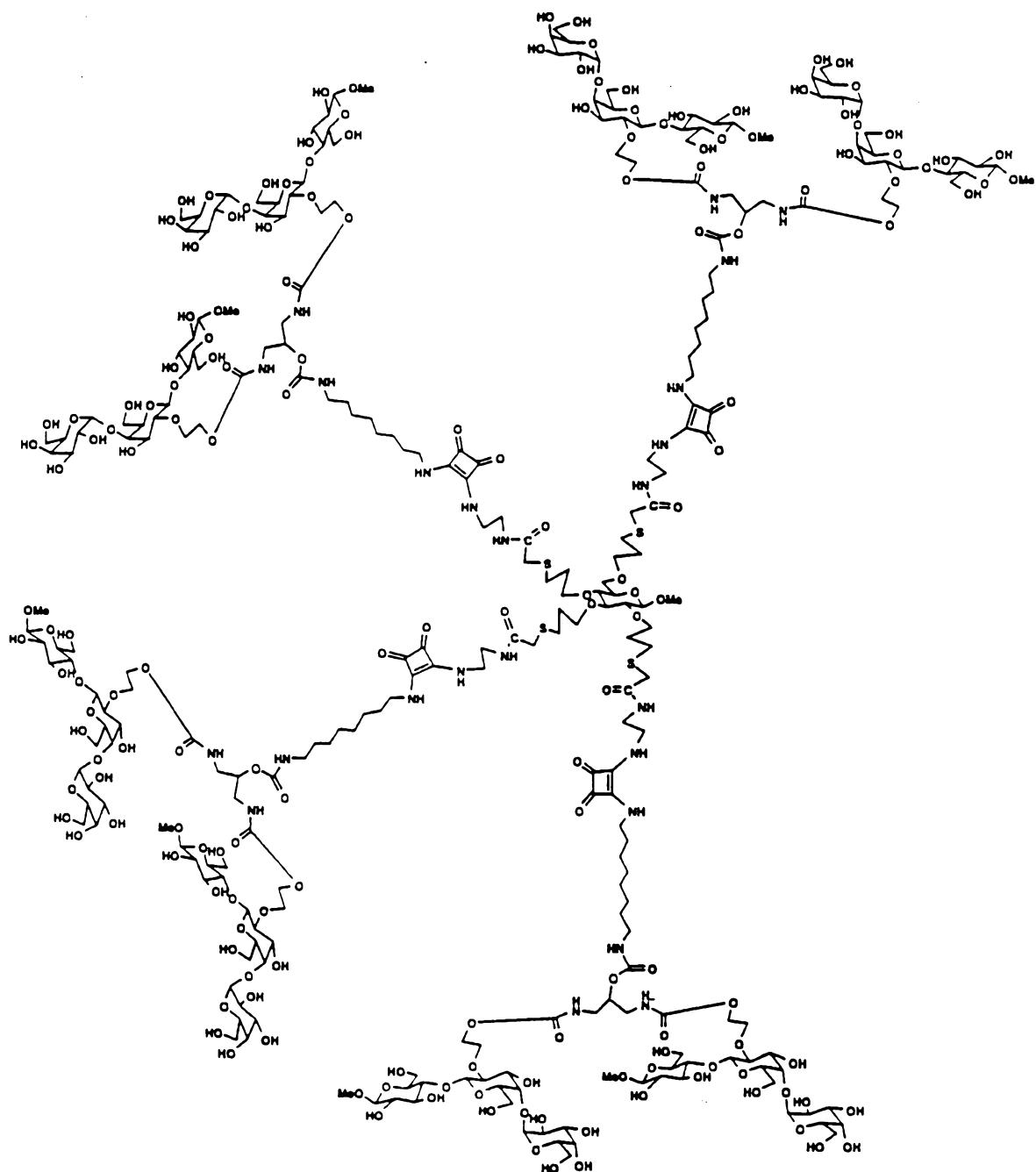


Figure 7

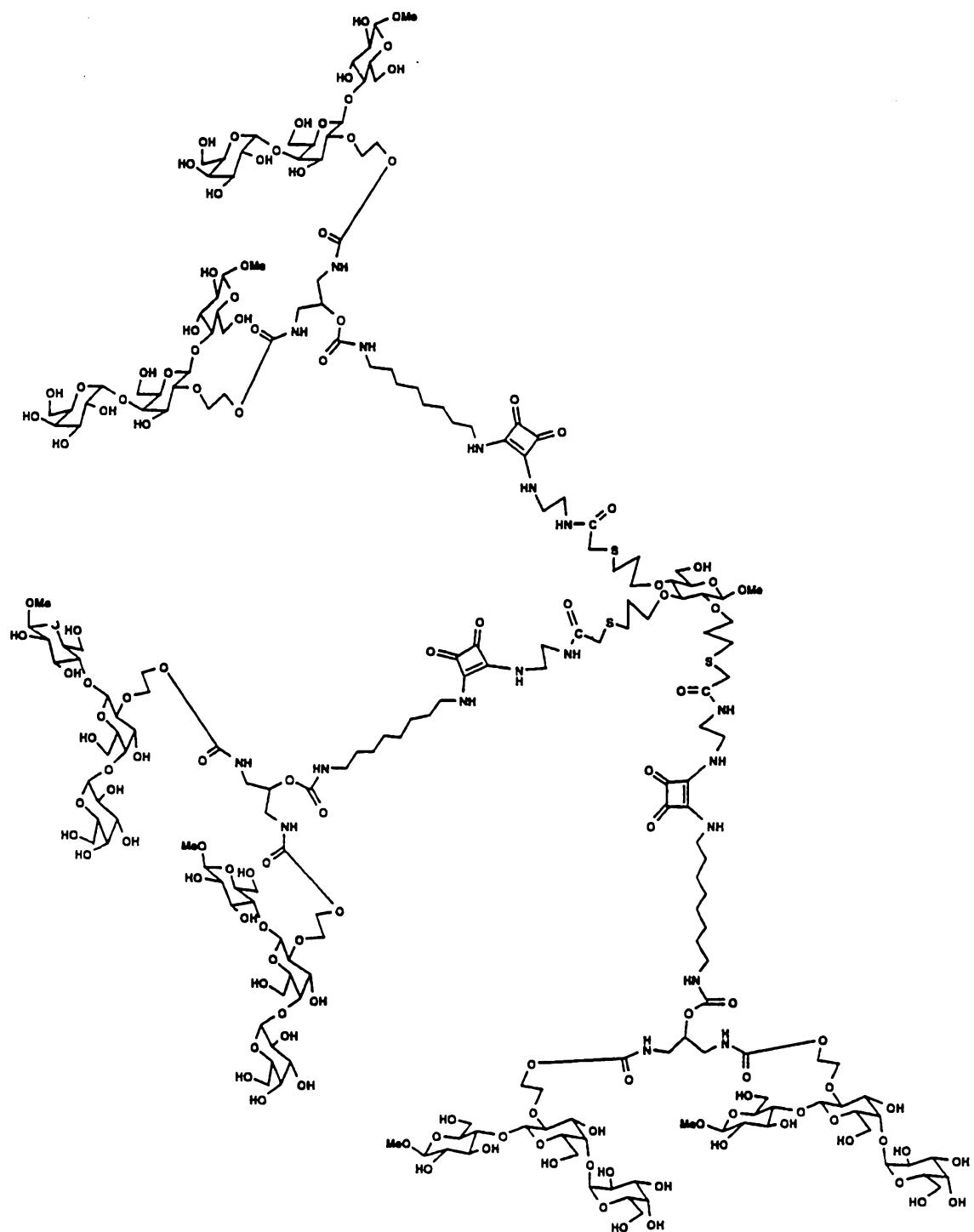


Figure 8

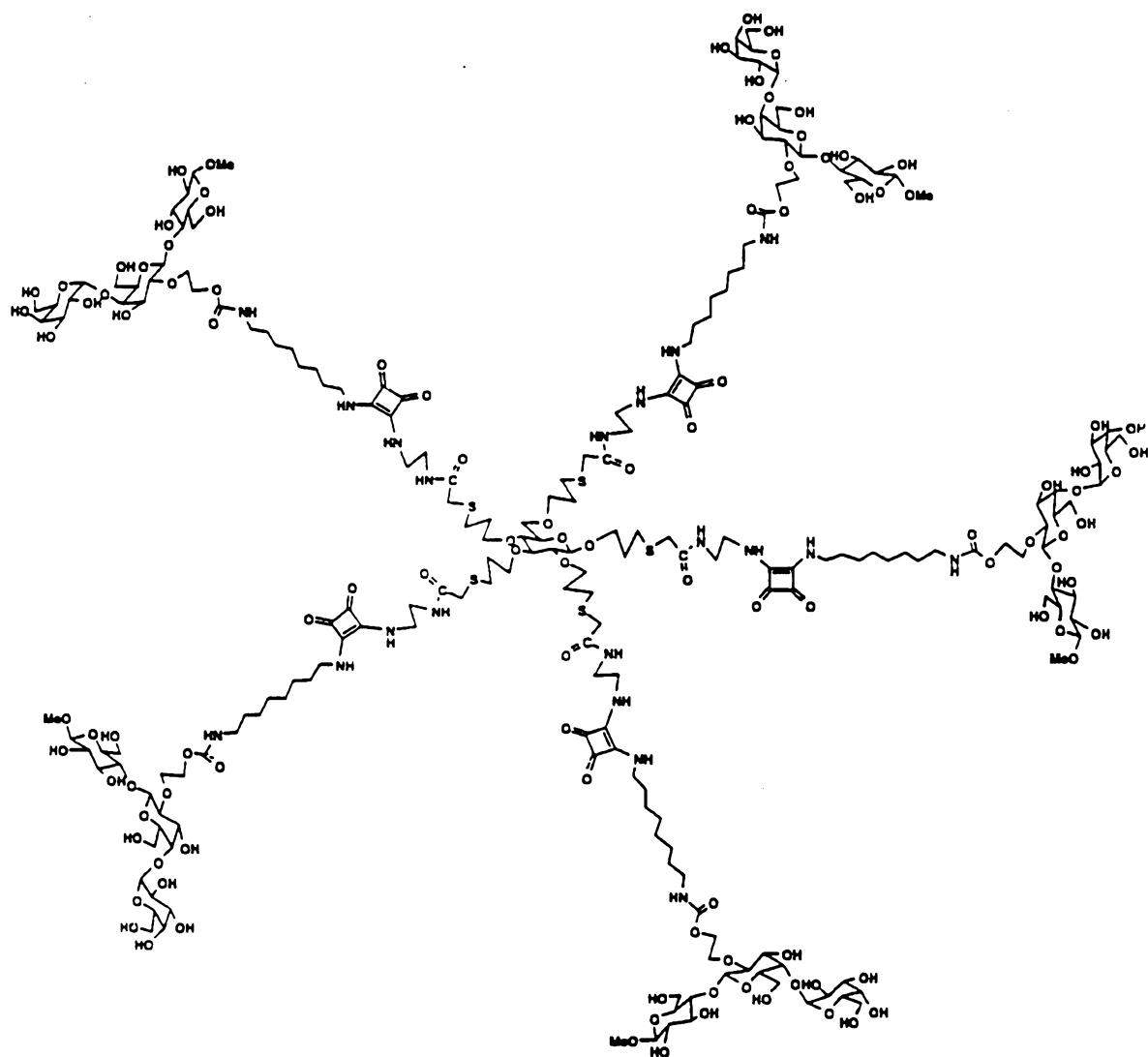


Figure 9

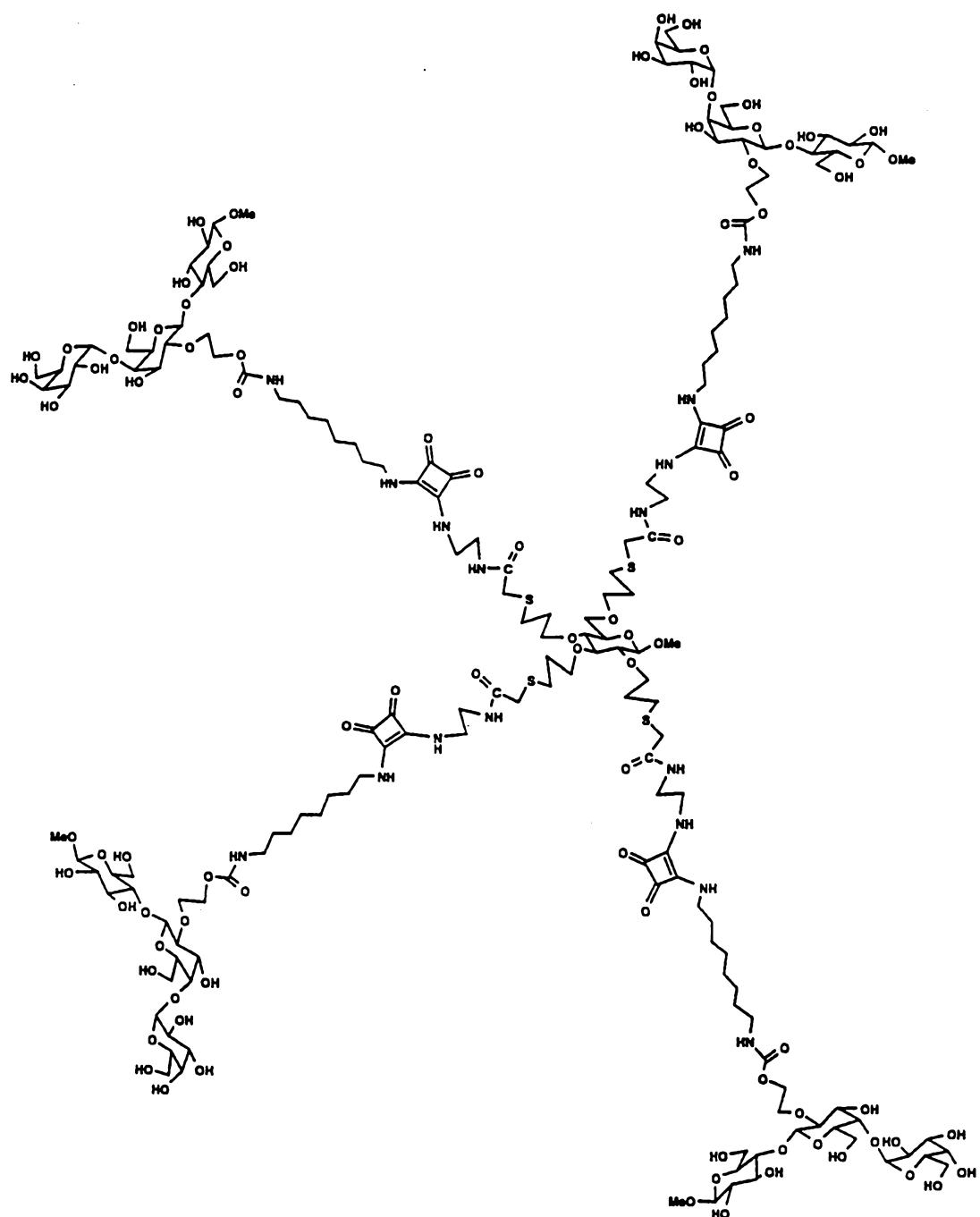


Figure 10

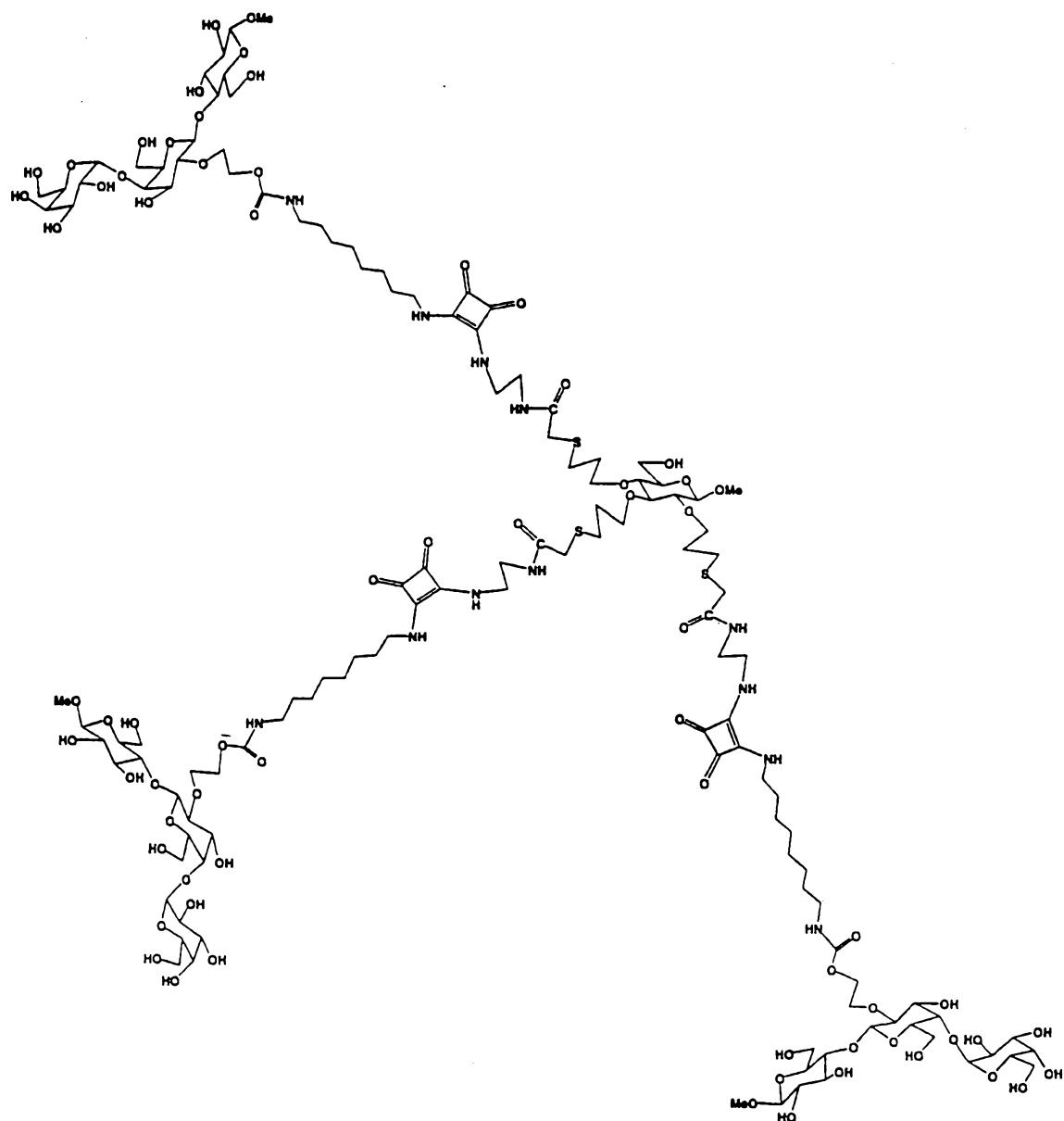


Figure 11

22/26

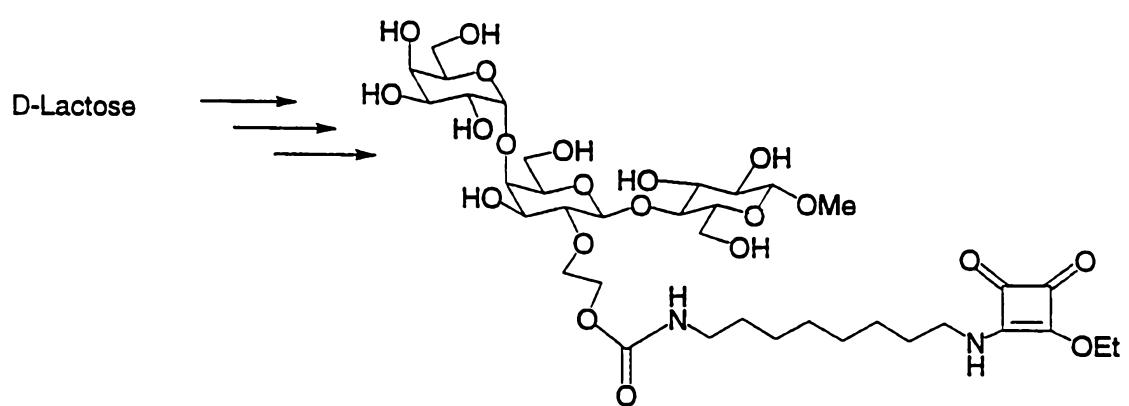
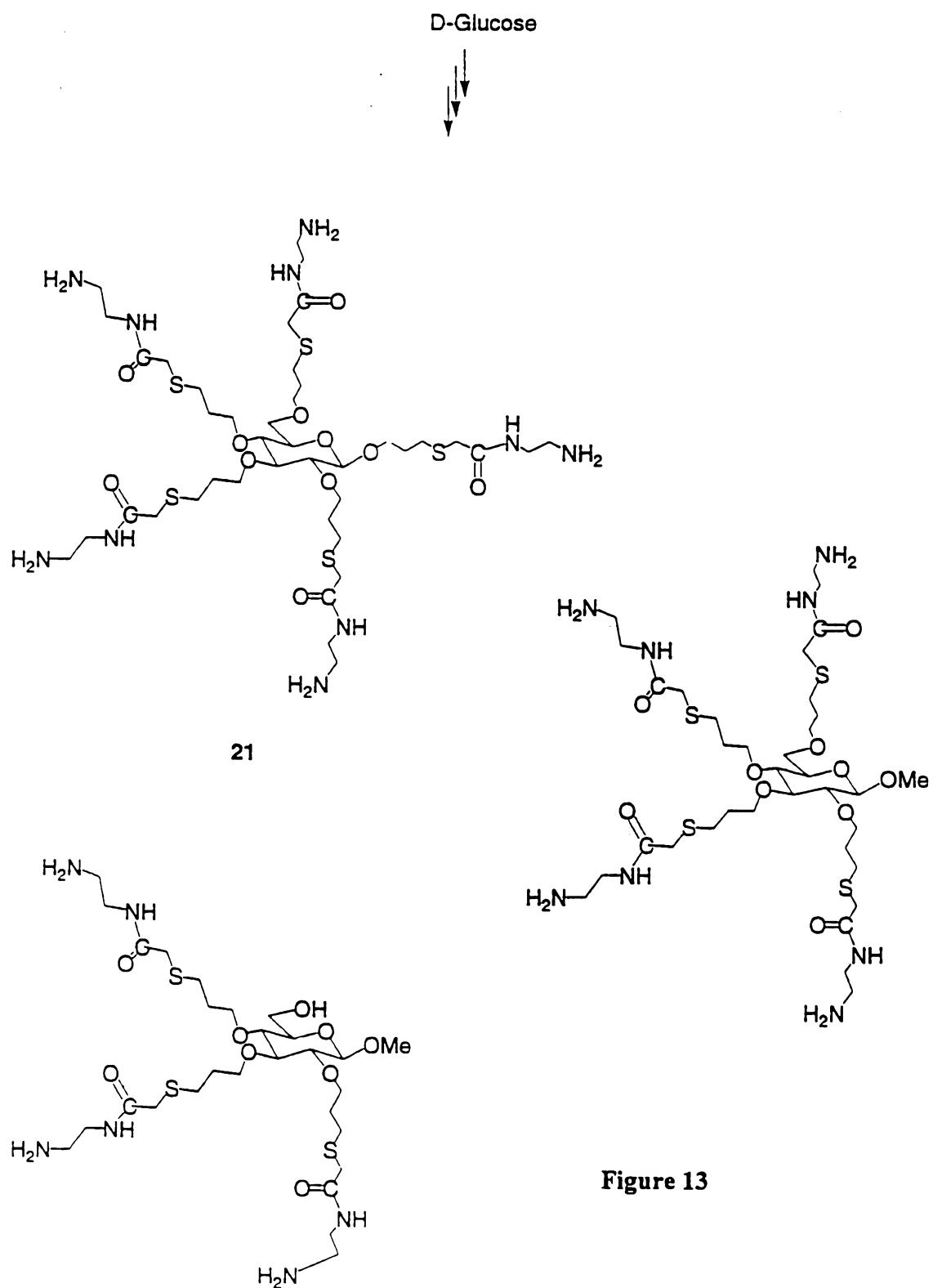


Figure 12



**Figure 13**

**Protocol A. SLT-1 immobilized on microtiter plate.  
Inhibitory Power of Multivalent Bridged  $P_k$ -Analogues**

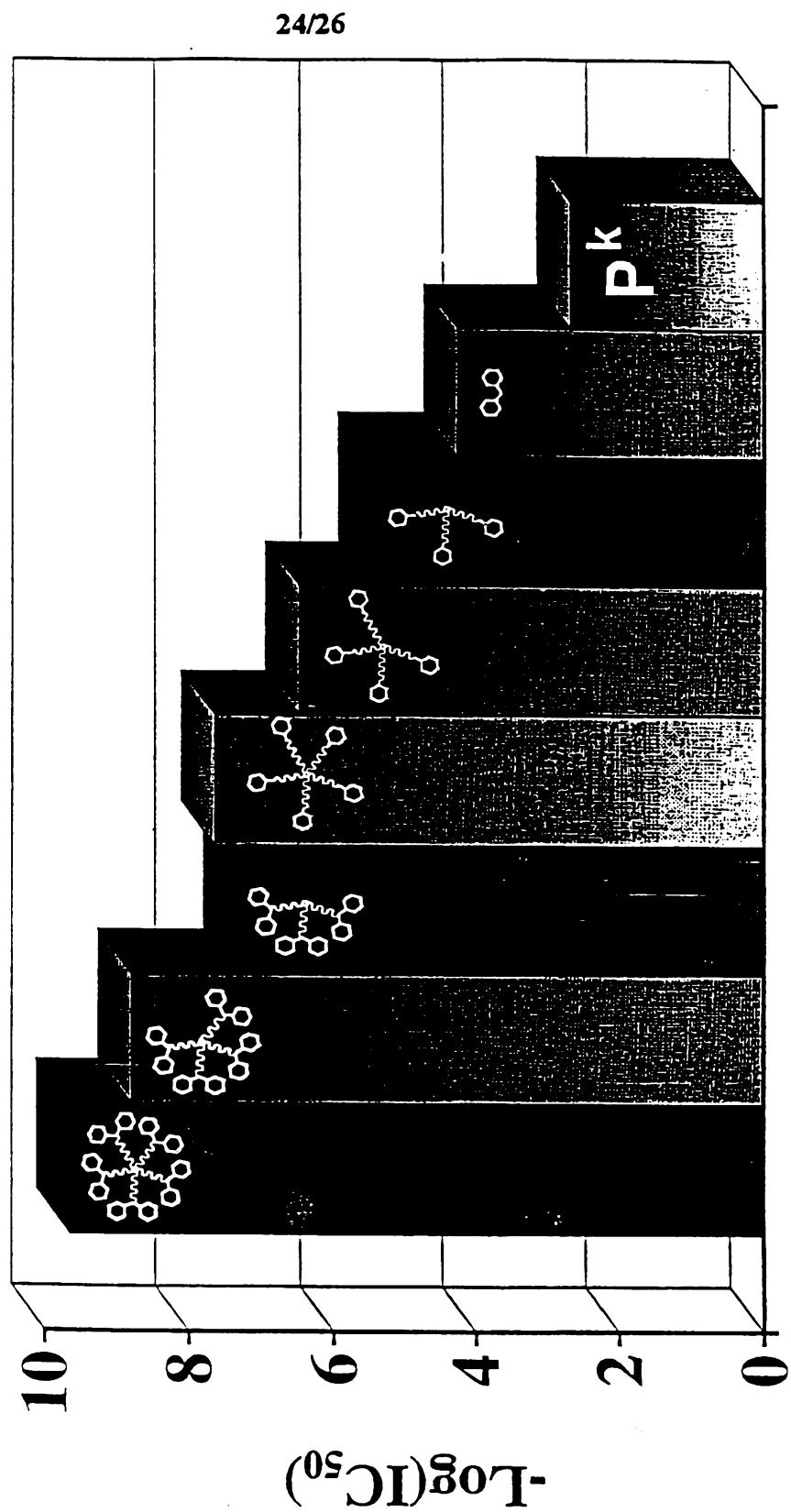


Figure 14

**Protocol B. SLT-1 in solution.**  
**Inhibitory Power of Multivalent Bridged Pk- Analogues**

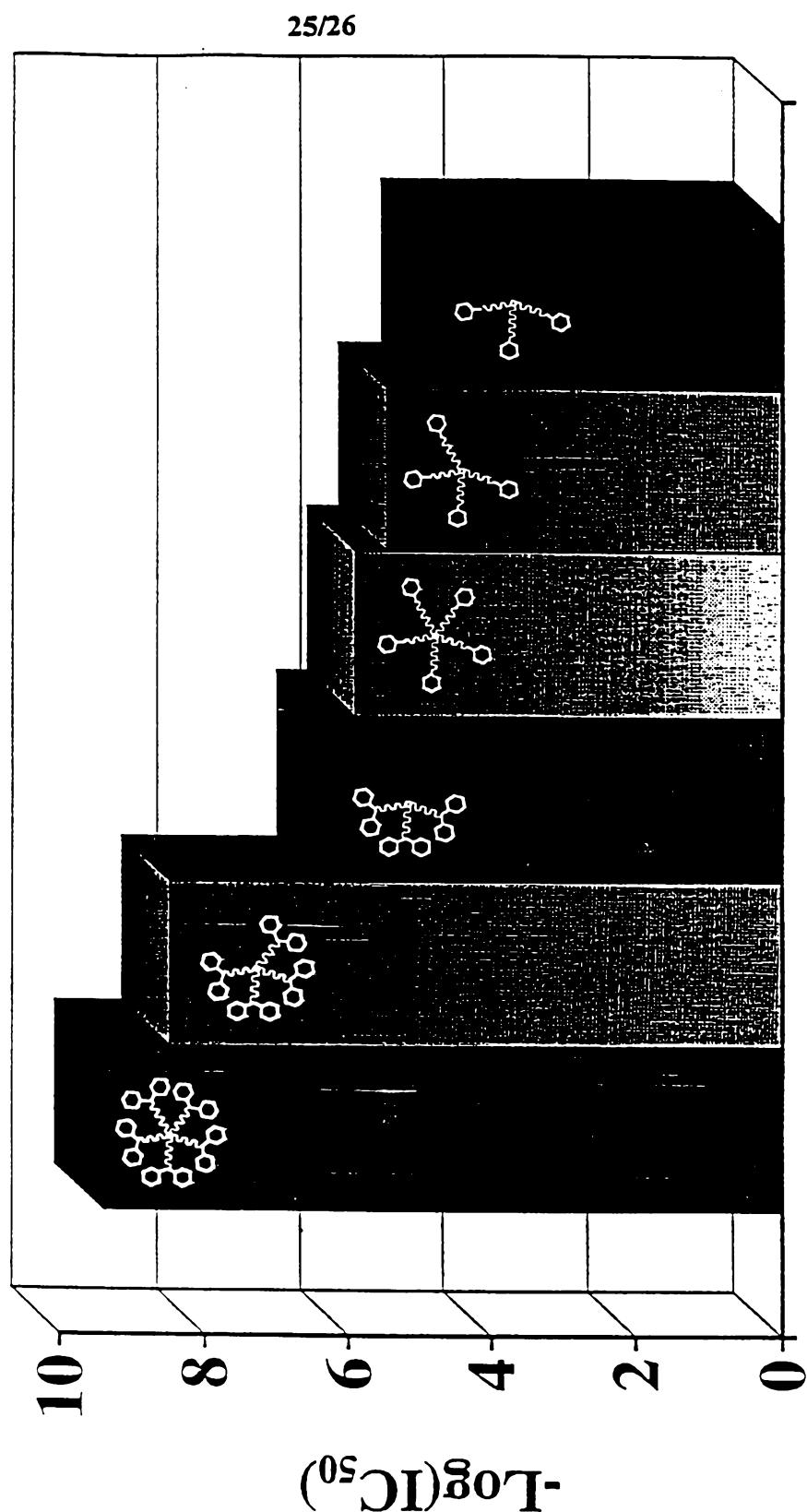


Figure 15

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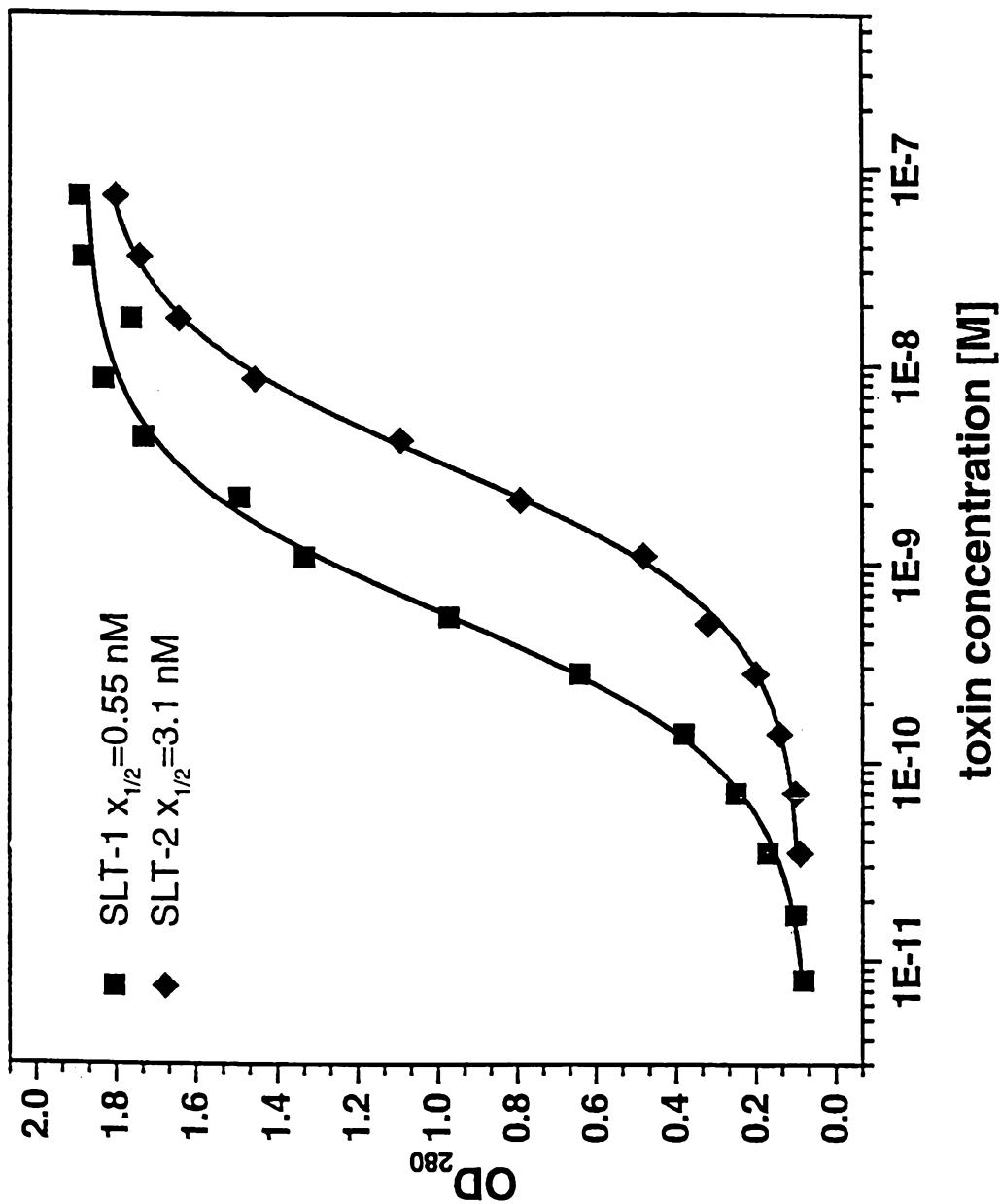
SLT-1 and SLT-2 binding to P<sup>k</sup>-trisaccharide disulfide plate

Figure 16