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Carbohydrate Research

DOI: 10.1016/j.carres.2017.04.023

Published: 07/08/2017

Version created as part of publication process; publisher's layout; not normally made publicly available

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Glycerol mycolates from synthetic mycolic acids

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School of Chemistry, Bangor University, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales, UK LL57 2UW

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**Abstract:** R- and S-Glycerol mycolates derived from single synthetic α-, keto- and methoxy-mycolic acids are described.

**Keywords:** GroMM, glycerol mycolate, α-mycolic acid, keto-mycolic acid, methoxy-mycolic acid

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**1. Introduction**

Complex mixtures of mycolic acids are characteristic components of mycobacterial cells, either bound to the wall as arabinose esters or not bound to the wall, as free acids or esterified to sugars such as glucose (GMM), or trehalose (dimycolate, TDM; monomycolate, TMM) [1]. As early as 1956, it was shown that *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* contains mycoloylglycerols (ca. 90 carbons) [2 - 5]. Glycerol monomycolate (GroMM, also known as MMG) is also present in the wax C fraction of BCG [6]. Shorter chain glycerol esters were isolated from *Nocardia rhodochrous*, which contains nocardomycoloylglycerols (40 – 44 carbons) [7], from *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* (30 – 36 carbons) [8], from *Nocardia asteroides* (50 – 56 carbons) [9], and from *Rhodococcus lentifragmentus* (32 – 50 carbons) [10].

The glycerol is esterified at one of the primary alcohol groups [11]. The antigen isolated from *Mycobacterium bovis BCG* was shown to exist as two stereoisomers at the glycerol by comparison of the NMR spectrum with those of R- and S-glycerol isomers of GroMM prepared from mycolic acid mixtures isolated from *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv cells [12]. Both semi-synthetic GroMMs stimulate CD-1 restricted T cell clones, the R-isomer being more slightly more stimulatory than GroMM from *Mycobacterium bovis BCG*, the S-isomer slightly less stimulatory. In this system, R and S-isomers of GroMM prepared from a 32 carbon corynomycolate almost completely removed the stimulatory effect, in line with earlier results [13]. The secondary alcohol group of the glycerol was also necessary for activity. GroMM was presented by *M. tuberculosis* infected dendritic cells, demonstrating that the antigen is available for presentation during natural infection. Ex vivo experiments showed that GroMM stimulated T cells from vaccinated or latently infected healthy donors but not those from patients with active tuberculosis, suggesting that GroMM-specific T cells are primed during infection and their detection correlates with lack of clinically active disease [12]. Hattori *et al.* immunized guinea pigs with bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) expressing high levels of GroMM and then monitored skin reactions at the site of inoculation with GroMM-containing liposome. The host responses to GroMM produced by dormant mycobacteria contribute to their long-term survival in the host [14], again identifying GroMM...
as potentially associated with latent infection. GroMM is a ligand for the human, but not mouse macrophage inducible c-type lectin, Mincle [15], the signalling process being dependent on structure [16, 17].

A 32 carbon monomycolyl GroMM analogue demonstrated enhanced immunostimulatory activity in a diocadecyl ammonium bromide/Ag85B-ESAT-6 formulation. Elevated levels of IFN-gamma and IL-6 were produced in spleen cells from mice immunised with a 32 carbon GroMM analogue comparable activity to the potent Th1 adjuvant, trehalose 6,6'-dibehenate [18 – 22]. Interest in the properties and applications of GroMMs therefore remains high [23 - 26].

Derivatives of GroMMs in which the two other glycerol alcohol groups are acylated have also been reported [27].

Layre et al. prepared GroMM using potassium salts of mixtures of mycolates isolated from M. tuberculosis H37Rv [12], using (S)- and (R)-isopropylidene-glycerol p-toluenesulfonates 1 and 2 (Scheme 1).

![Scheme 1: The synthesis of GroMM with natural mycolic acid [13]](image)

Nordly et al. synthesised GroMMs from unfunctionalised C₃₂ β-hydroxy acids producing a mixture of four stereoisomers, and carried out extensive studies of their bioactivity [21].

In order to determine whether the detailed structure of the individual mycolic acid in the natural mixtures leads to changes in their biological properties, or whether the activity is dominated by the glycerol fragment, we now report the synthesis of GroMMs based on coupling of a set of individual complete synthetic mycolic acids, taken from various Mtb classes, with both glycerol stereoisomers.

2. Results and discussion

The synthetic mycolic esters of R-glycerol 10 were prepared by two methods. In the first, the TBDMS protected MA was coupled with acetonide 8 promoted by DCC and DMAP. In the
second, the unprotected acid was coupled with tosylate 2 in the presence of cesium hydrogen carbonate. (Scheme 2)

![Scheme 2](image)

Scheme 2: (i) DMAP, DCC; (ii) TFA, CH₂Cl₂; (iii) CsHCO₃; (iv) HCl, THF, H₂O

Table 1: Synthetic mycolates of R-glycerol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mycolic acid</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Yield 9/12 (%)</th>
<th>Yield 10 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH₃(CH₂)₁₇</td>
<td>OMe</td>
<td>TBDMS</td>
<td>7a</td>
<td>9a (72)</td>
<td>10a (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₆</td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₇</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₂₂CH₃</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₃(CH₂)₁₆</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11b</td>
<td>12b (85)</td>
<td>10b (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₄</td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₇</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₂₂CH₃</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₃(CH₂)₁₇</td>
<td>OMe</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11c</td>
<td>12c (50)</td>
<td>10c (88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₆</td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₇</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₂₂CH₃</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₃(CH₂)₁₇</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11d</td>
<td>12d (85)</td>
<td>10d (87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₅</td>
<td>(CH₂)₁₇</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CH₂)₂₂CH₃</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The S-glycerol mycolate esters were prepared by a modified method in which the glycerol was protected by benzyl groups, which, after coupling, were removed by hydrogenolysis:
Scheme 3: (i) TsCl, py; (ii) RCOOH, CsHCO₃; (iii) Pd(OH)₂, H₂, CH₂Cl₂, MeOH

Table 3. Synthetic mycolates of S-glycerol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mycolic acid</th>
<th>RCOOH</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Yield 15</th>
<th>Yield 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mycolic acid 11b" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RCOOH 15b" /></td>
<td>11b</td>
<td>15b (71)</td>
<td>16b (92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mycolic acid 11c" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RCOOH 15c" /></td>
<td>11c</td>
<td>15c (62)</td>
<td>16c (85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mycolic acid 11e" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RCOOH 15e" /></td>
<td>11e</td>
<td>15e (58)</td>
<td>16e (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mycolic acid 11f" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RCOOH 15f" /></td>
<td>11f</td>
<td>15f (72)</td>
<td>16f (92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mycolic acid 11g" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="RCOOH 15g" /></td>
<td>11g</td>
<td>15g (59)</td>
<td>16g (87)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Conclusion

A set of nine R- and S-glycerol mycolates derived from single synthetic α-, keto- and methoxy-mycolic acids are described. The GroMMs 10a – 10d did not show any significant effects in the stimulation of cytokines in bone marrow dendritic cells (BMDCs) [28], unlike related TDMs and TMMs, GMMs and arabinose mycolates which activate BMDCs in terms of production of pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-6 and TNF-α) and reactive oxygen species, upregulation of costimulatory molecules and activation of NLRP3 inflammasome by a mechanism dependent on Mincle [29]. However, they do show strong and selective effects in the stimulation of CD1b-restricted GEM T cell responses, mirroring the effects of the corresponding free mycolic acids [30].

2. Experimental:

2.1 General considerations
All chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers. THF was distilled over sodium and benzophenone under nitrogen, while dichloromethane was distilled over calcium hydride. Petrol refers to the fraction b.p. 40–60 °C. Organic solutions were dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. Reactions carried out under inert conditions were under a slow stream of nitrogen. Column chromatography and thin layer chromatography were carried out using Silica gel (Merck 7736, 40 – 63 micron) and silica gel plates (Merck, 60F254). Rf values for the final GroMMs were all in the range 0.31 – 0.39 using 20:1 chloroform/methanol. Infrared (IR) spectra were carried out on a Perkin-Elmer 1600 F.T.I.R. spectrometer as films or KBr discs or directly on a Bruker ALPHA FTIR spectrometer. Optical rotations were measured as solutions in chloroform using a Polar 2001 automatic polarimeter. NMR spectra were recorded either on an Advance 400 or 500 spectrometers. Spectra are reproduced in the Supplementary Information. Mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionisation-time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) values are given plus sodium to an accuracy of 1 d.p. Accurate mass data were run by Dr Paul Gates (Bristol University) or the EPSRC UK National Mass Spectrometry Facility at Swansea University.

4.2 ((R)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl (R)-2-((R)-1-hydroxy-18-((1R,2S)-2-((17S,18S)-17-methoxy-18-methylhexatriacontyl)cyclopropyl)octadecyl)hexacosanoate (10a)

(a) (R)-2-((R)-1-((tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-18-((1R,2S)-2-((17S,18S)-17-methoxy-18-methylhexatriacontyl)cyclopropyl)octadecyl)hexacosanoic acid (7a) [31] (90 mg, 0.06 mmol) and DMAP (10 mg, 0.08 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of (S)-(2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methanol [32] (10 mg, 0.07 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). A solution of DCC (20 mg; 0.09 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was added dropwise with stirring under nitrogen over 120 min then stirred for 1 h at room temperature. Precipitated dicyclohexyl urea was filtered off and washed with dichloromethane (10 mL). The solvent was evaporated and the crude product was purified by column chromatography eluting with petrol/ethyl acetate (20:1) to give a semi-solid, compound 9a (70 mg, 72%), [ α]D²⁴ - 6.7 (c 1.4, CHCl₃), [Found (M+Na)⁺: 1505.5, C₉₇H₁₉₂NaO₆Si requires: 1504.4], which showed δH (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.33 – 4.26 (1H, m), 4.11 (1H, dd, J 2.4, 5.4 Hz), 4.06 (1H, dd, J 6.4, 8.4 Hz), 3.94 – 3.87 (1H, m), 3.75 (1H, dd, J 6.0, 8.4 Hz), 3.34 (3H, s), 3.24 – 3.15 (1H, m), 2.98 – 2.92 (1H, m), 2.55 (1H, ddd, J 3.8, 6.9, 10.8 Hz), 2.00 – 1.01 ((153H, m including two singlets at 1.43 (3H, s) and 1.36 (3H, s)), 0.91 - 0.83 (18H, including d for the methyl group (J 7 Hz) and a t (J 6.8 Hz) for the terminal methyl group and s for the tert-butyl group), 0.69 – 0.61 (2H, m), 0.56 (1H, dt, J 3.7, 7.6 Hz), 0.04 (3H, s), 0.01 (3H, s), -0.34 (1H, q, J 5.2 Hz); δC (126 MHz, CDCl₃): 174.7, 109.8, 85.6, 73.7, 66.8, 64.4, 57.9, 55.9, 51.6, 35.5, 35.1, 34.0, 32.6, 32.1, 30.7, 30.4, 30.2, 30.1, 29.9, 29.8, 29.6, 29.5, 28.9, 28.0, 27.7, 26.9, 26.3, 26.2, 25.9, 25.6, 25.5, 24.9, 24.1, 22.9, 18.1, 15.9, 15.0, 14.3, 11.1, -4.2, -4.7; νmax/cm⁻¹: 2918, 2849, 1726, 1465, 1256, 1178..

(b)Trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane (1:1, 0.4 mL) was added to a stirred solution of ester (9a) (50 mg, 0.03 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 12 h, when TLC showed no starting material was left and the reaction mixture was worked up by quenching with sat. aq. NaHCO₃ (20 mL) and the product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 ×
10 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography eluting with chloroform/methanol (15:1) to give a semi-solid, the title compound (10a) (40 mg, 86%), [α]23D − 8.4 (c 1.1, CHCl₃). [MALDI-Found (M+Na)⁺]: 1350.3199, C₈₈H₁₇₄NaO₆ requires: 1350.3203], which showed δH (500 MHz, C₆D₆): 4.25 (1H, dd, J 6.6, 11.4, Hz), 4.12 (1H, dd, J 3.9, 11.4, Hz), 3.81 − 3.71 (2H, m), 3.47 (1H, dd, J 4.2, 11.3, Hz), 3.40 (1H, dd, J 5.5, 11.4, Hz), 3.27 (3H, s), 3.03 − 2.97 (1H, m), 2.55 (1H, dd, J 9.0, 12.5, Hz), 1.9-1.15 (149H, m), 1.00 (3H, d, J 6.8 Hz), 0.93 (7H, including t, J 6.6 Hz), 0.78 − 0.71 (2H, m), 0.68 (1H, br s), 0.55 − 0.41 (2H, m), -0.43 (2H, q, J 5.2 Hz); δC (126 MHz, C₆D₆): 175.2, 85.4, 73.2, 70.4, 65.5, 63.6, 57.6, 53.0, 35.9, 35.8, 33.0, 32.4, 30.9, 30.8, 30.6, 30.5, 30.3, 30.2, 30.1, 30.0, 29.8, 29.3, 28.2, 28.0, 26.7, 26.0, 23.1, 16.3, 15.3, 14.4, 11.5; νmax/cm⁻¹: 3499 2928, 2854, 1744, 1435, 1267, 1178.

4.3 (R)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl (R)-2-((R)-1-hydroxy-12-((1R,2S)-2-((14-((1R,2S)-2-eicosylcyclopropyl)tetradecyl)cyclopropyl)dodecyl) hexacosanoate (10b)

(a) Dry cesium hydrogen carbonate (120 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of acid (11b) [33] (70 mg, 0.06 mmol) in a mixture of THF:DMF (1:1, 4 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was left at room temperature for 1 h then (R)-(2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate [2] [34] (40 mg, 0.13 mmol) was added. The mixture was brought to 70 °C and left at this temperature for 18 h, then cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate (15 mL). The organic layer was washed twice with water, dried and concentrated. Column chromatography eluting with petrol/ethyl acetate (5:1) gave a semi-solid, title compound (12b) (66 mg, 85%), [α]20D − 4.7 (c 1.2, CHCl₃), [Found (M+Na)⁺]: 1274.2, C₈₈H₁₇₄Na requires: 1274.2]. This showed δH (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.27 − 4.20 (1H, m), 4.10 (1H, dd, J 3.3, 9.9 Hz), 4.06 (1H, dd, J 4.3, 9.9 Hz), 3.97 (1H, dd, J 6.5, 8.5 Hz), 3.65 (1H, dd, J 5.9, 8.5 Hz), 3.56 (1H, br s), 2.41 − 2.28 (2H, m), 1.38 − 0.98 ((140H, m including 1.34 (3H, s), 1.26 (3H, s)), 0.78 (6H, t, J 6.8), 0.61 − 0.50 (4H, m), 0.50 − 0.41 (2H, m), -0.43 (2H, q, J 5.2 Hz); δC (101 MHz, CDCl₃): 175.3, 109.8, 73.4, 72.3, 66.3, 64.4, 51.3, 35.6, 31.9, 30.2, 29.73, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 28.7, 27.4, 26.7, 25.7, 25.3, 22.7, 15.7, 14.1, 10.9; νmax/cm⁻¹: 3430, 3011, 2928, 2854, 1744, 1235, 759, 669.

(b) Hydrochloric acid (2 M, 0.04 mL) was added to a stirred solution of ester (12b) (55 mg, 0.04 mmol) in THF (25 mL) at room temperature, then stirred at 40 °C for 16 h. The mixture was quenched at room temperature with sat. aq. NaHCO₃ (10 mL), the product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was re-extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 25). The organic extracts were dried and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography eluting with petrol/ethyl acetate (4:1) to give a semi-solid, the title compound (10b) (46 mg, 86%), [α]23D − 6.5 (c 0.90, CHCl₃) [MALDI-Found (M+Na)⁺]: 1234.2005, C₈₈H₁₅₈NaO₅ requires: 1234.2001], which showed δH (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.30 − 4.26 (2H, m), 4.01 − 3.95 (1H, m), 3.76 − 3.61 (3H, m), 2.54 − 2.44 (1H, m), 1.49 − 1.08 (137H, m), 0.90 (6H, t, J 6.8 Hz), 0.71 − 0.63 (4H, m), 0.58 (2H, dt, J 3.7, 7.6 Hz), -0.31 (2H, q, J 5.2 Hz); δC (101 MHz, CDCl₃): 175.6, 73.1, 70.1, 65.4, 63.4, 52.3, 35.5, 32.1, 30.4, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.5, 28.9, 27.6, 25.6, 22.8, 15.9, 14.3, 11.1; νmax/cm⁻¹: 3430, 3011, 2925, 2886,1744, 1232, 759, 669.
4.4 (R)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl (R)-2-((R)-1-hydroxy-18-((1R,2S)-2-((17S,18S)-17-methoxy-18-methylhexatriacontyl)cyclopropyl)octadecyl)tetraicosanoate (10c)

(a) Dry cesium hydrogen carbonate (100 mg, 0.40 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of acid (11c) [36] (70 mg, 0.05 mmol) in a mixture of THF:DMF (1:1, 2 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was left at room temperature for 1 h then (R)-tosylate (2) (80 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated at 70 °C for 18 h, then worked up and purified as before to give a semi-solid, compound (12c) (70 mg, 50%), \([\alpha]_D^{24} = -6.2\) (c 0.9, CHCl₃) [Found (M+Na)⁺: 1362.5, C₈₉H₁₇₄NaO₆ requires: 1362.3]; \(\delta_H\) (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.37 – 4.29 (1H, m), 4.20 (1H, dd, J 3.3, 9.9 Hz), 4.16 (1H, dd, J 2.4, 8.0 Hz), 4.07 (1H, dd, J 6.5, 8.5 Hz), 3.75 (1H, dd, J 5.9, 8.4 Hz), 3.66 (1H, br s), 3.34 (3H, s), 2.99 – 2.92 (1H, m), 2.52 – 2.37 (2H, m), 1.48 – 1.06 ((149H, m including 1.44 (3H, s), 1.36 (3H, s), 0.88 (6H, t, J 6.8 Hz), 0.85 (3H, d, J 6.9 Hz), 0.64 (2H, br s), 0.60 – 0.51 (1H, m), -0.34 (1H, q, J 5.3 Hz); \(\delta_C\) (101 MHz, CDCl₃): 175.3, 109.8, 85.5, 73.4, 72.3, 66.3, 64.4, 57.7, 51.3, 35.5, 35.3, 32.4, 31.9, 30.8, 30.2, 30.0, 29.9, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 28.7, 27.6, 27.4, 26.7, 26.1, 25.7, 25.3, 22.7, 15.8, 14.9, 14.1, 10.9; \(v_{max}/cm^{-1}\): 3511, 2918, 2849, 1726, 1465, 1256, 1178.

(b) Hydrochloric acid (2 M, 0.04 mL) was added with stirring to ester (12c) (65 mg, 0.05mmol) in THF (34 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 16 h, then worked up and purified as before to give a semi-solid, the title compound (10c) (56 mg, 88%), \([\alpha]_D^{24} = -9.3\) (c 1.2, CHCl₃) [MALDI-Found (M+Na)⁺: 1322.2880, C₈₆H₁₇₀NaO₆ requires: 1322.2890]; \(\delta_H\) (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.30 – 4.22 (2H, m), 3.99 – 3.92 (1H, m), 3.74 – 3.67 (2H, m), 3.62 (1H, dd, J 5.5, 11.4 Hz), 3.34 (3H, s), 2.98 – 2.92 (1H, m), 2.50 – 2.42 (1H, m), 1.74 – 1.01 (146H, m), 0.88 (6H, t, J 6.9 Hz), 0.84 (3H, d, J 6.9 Hz), 0.69 – 0.60 (2H, m), 0.55 (1H, dt, J 3.9, 8.4 Hz), -0.34 (1H, q, J 5.1 Hz); \(\delta_C\) (101 MHz, CDCl₃): 175.6, 85.6, 73.1, 70.1, 65.4, 63.4, 57.9, 52.3, 35.5, 35.4, 34.1, 32.5, 32.1, 30.6, 30.4, 30.1, 30.0, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 28.9, 27.7, 27.6, 26.3, 25.6, 25.1, 22.8, 15.9, 15.0, 14.3, 11.1; \(v_{max}/cm^{-1}\): 3511, 2918, 2849, 1726, 1465, 1256, 1178.

4.5 (R)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl (2R)-2-((1R)-1-hydroxy-16-((1R,2S)-2-(20-methyl-19-oxo-octatriacontyl)cyclopropyl)hexadecyl)tetraicosanoate (10d)

(a) Dry cesium hydrogen carbonate (110 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of acid (11d) [36] (80 mg, 0.06 mmol) in a mixture of THF:DMF (1:1, 3 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 1 h then R-tosylate (2) (40 mg, 0.13 mmol) was added. The mixture was brought to 70 °C and left at this temperature for 18 h, then worked up and purified as before to give a semi-solid, compound (12d) (64 mg, 85%), \([\alpha]_D^{24} = -8.1\) (c 1.4, CHCl₃) [Found (M+Na)⁺: 1346.9, C₈₈H₁₇₀NaO₆ requires: 1346.3], which showed \(\delta_H\) (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.40 – 4.32 (1H, m), 4.26 (1H, dd, J 5.9, 11.4 Hz), 4.20 (1H, dd, J 2.2, 5.4 Hz), 4.14 (1H, dd, J 4.6, 11.4 Hz), 4.12 – 4.07 (1H, m), 3.78 (1H, ddd, J 2.3, 5.7, 8.3 Hz), 3.73 – 3.65 (1H, m), 2.57 – 2.40 (4H, m), 1.66 – 1.11 ((146H, m including 1.46 (3H, s), 1.38 (3H, s)), 1.07 (3H, d, J 6.9 Hz), 0.90 (6H, t, J 6.8 Hz), 0.71 – 0.63 (2H, m), 0.62 – 0.54 (1H, m), -0.31 (1H, q, J 5.2 Hz); \(\delta_C\) (101 MHz, CDCl₃): 215.2, 175.3, 109.8, 73.5, 72.3, 66.2, 64.6, 51.5, 46.3, 41.1, 35.6, 35.5, 33.0, 31.9, 30.2, 29.7, 29.59, 29.5, 29.3, 28.7, 27.3, 26.7, 25.3, 23.7, 22.7, 16.3, 15.7, 14.1, 10.9; \(v_{max}/cm^{-1}\): 3455, 2944, 2861, 1722, 1146, 1382, 1214, 1022.
(b) Hydrochloric acid (2 M, 0.04 mL) was added to a stirred solution of ester (12d) (60 mg, 0.04 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 16 h. Then worked up and purified as before to give a semi-solid, the title compound (10d) (51 mg, 87%), \[ \alpha \]D22 – 12 (c 1.1, CHCl3) [MALDI-Found (M+Na)+: 1306.2569, C85H166NaO6 requires: 1306.2577], which showed \( \delta^1 H \) (400 MHz, CDCl3): 4.30 (1H, dd, \( J = 4.1, 11.8 \) Hz), 4.25 (1H, dd, \( J = 6.7, 11.8 \) Hz), 4.03 – 3.94 (1H, m), 3.77 – 3.70 (2H, m), 3.65 (1H, dd, \( J = 4.6, 10.5 \) Hz), 2.57 – 2.39 (4H, m), 1.76 – 1.10 (143H, m), 1.07 (3H, d, \( J = 6.9 \) Hz), 0.90 (6H, t, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz), 0.66 (2H, br s), 0.58 (1H, dt, \( J = 3.7, 7.8 \) Hz), -0.31 (1H, q, \( J = 5.2 \) Hz); \( \delta^1 C \) (101 MHz, CDCl3): 215.3, 175.4, 72.9, 69.7, 65.2, 63.3, 52.2, 46.3, 41.1, 37.9, 35.3, 33.0, 31.9, 30.2, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 28.7, 27.4, 27.3, 25.5, 23.7, 22.6, 16.3, 15.8, 14.1, 10.9; \( \nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1} \): 3455, 2944, 2861, 1722, 1146, 1382, 1214, 1022.

4.6 (S)-2,3-Bis(benzyloxy)propyl alkanoate (15): General procedure
Cesium hydrogen carbonate was added to a stirred solution of 1-O-p-toluene-sulfonyl-(S)-2,3-di-O-benzylglycerol (14) [37], and acid in dry DMF:THF (1:5, 2 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 2 days, then diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) and water (10 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was re-extracted with ethyl acetate (3×10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed successively with water (15 mL) and brine (15 mL), dried and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography.

4.7 (S)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl alkanoate (16): General procedure
Palladium hydroxide on activated charcoal (20% Pd, 0.15 fold by weight) was stirred with compounds (15) in dry CH2Cl2: MeOH (1:1, 2 mL) at room temperature under hydrogen. The mixture was stirred for 24 h then filtered through celite. The celite was washed with CH2Cl2 (10 mL), the filtrate was evaporated, and the residue purified by column chromatography.

4.8 (S)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl (2R)-2-(1-hydroxy-12-((1R,2S)-2-(14-((2S)-2-eicosylcyclopropyl)tetradecyl)cyclopropyl)dodecyl)hexacosanoate (16b)
(a) Cesium hydrogen carbonate (0.0616 g, 0.317 mmol), tosylate (14) (0.0298 g, 0.0698 mmol) and the acid (11b) [33] (0.0724 g, 0.0636 mmol) gave a thick colourless oil; column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 10:1) gave compound (15b), (62 mg, 71%); \([\alpha]_D^{22} +3.8\) (c 0.31, CHCl\(_3\)); \(\delta_H\) (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.35 – 7.27 (10H, m), 4.68 (1H, d, J 11.8 Hz), 4.65 (1H, d, J 11.8 Hz), 4.55 (2H, br.s), 4.43 (1H, dd, J 4.1, 11.7 Hz), 4.22 (1H, dd, J 5.5, 11.7 Hz), 3.86 – 3.80 (1H, m), 3.67 – 3.55 (3H, including br dd J 1.6, 5.4 Hz at 6.3), 2.45 (1H, d, J 8.0 Hz), 2.43 (1H, br.dd, J 3.8, 10.5 Hz), 1.80 – 1.00 (134H, m), 0.89 (6H, t, J 6.7 Hz), 0.71 – 0.61 (4H, m), 0.57 (2H, dt, J 3.9, 8.4 Hz), -0.32 (2H, br.q, J 5.2 Hz); \(\delta_C\) (101 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 175.4, 138.0, 137.9, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 75.8, 73.5, 72.3, 72.1, 69.6, 63.5, 51.4, 35.5, 31.9, 30.2, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 28.7, 27.5, 25.8, 23.0, 15.8, 14.1, 10.9; \(\nu_{max}\): 2991, 2917, 2850, 1732, 1599, 1469 cm\(^{-1}\).

(b) Palladium hydroxide on activated charcoal (0.0077 g) and ester (15b) (0.0515 g, 0.0369 mmol) gave a thick colourless oil; column chromatography (chloroform/methanol, 10:1) gave the title compound (16b) (40 mg, 92%) [MALDI–Found (M+Na)\(^+\): 1234.2001, C\(_{81}\)H\(_{158}\)NaO\(_5\), requires: 1234.2007]; \([\alpha]_D^{22} +1.8\) (c 0.34, CHCl\(_3\)); \(\delta_H\) (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\) + few drops of CD\(_3\)OD): 4.21 (1H, dd, J 4.3, 11.4 Hz), 4.10 (1H, dd, J 6.4, 11.5 Hz), 3.89 – 3.80 (1H, m), 3.60 (2H, br dd, J 4.1, 11.5 Hz), 3.54 (1H, dd, J 5.8, 11.6 Hz), 2.39 (1H, dd, J 4.8, 7.6, 10.0 Hz), 1.86 (1H, dd, J 137H, m), 0.84 (6H, t, J 6.8 Hz), 0.65 – 0.56 (4H, m), 0.52 (2H, dt, J 3.9, 8.5 Hz), -0.37 (2H, br.q, J 4.9 Hz); \(\delta_C\) (101 MHz, CDCl\(_3\) + few drops of CD\(_3\)OD): 175.5, 72.6, 69.8, 65.1, 63.0, 52.5, 37.0, 35.0, 31.8, 30.1, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 28.7, 27.5, 25.8, 23.0, 15.8, 14.1, 10.9; \(\nu_{max}\): 3585, 2917, 2849, 1734, 1468 cm\(^{-1}\).

4.9 (S)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl(\(R\))-2-((\(R\))-1-hydroxy-18-((1R,2S)-2-((17S,18S)-17-methoxy-18-methylhexatriacontyl)cyclopropyl)octadecyl)tetracosanoate (16c)

(a) Cesium hydrogen carbonate (0.0436 g, 0.225 mmol), tosylate (14) (0.0211 g, 0.0495 mmol) and acid 11c (0.0552 g, 0.0450 mmol) [36] gave a thick colourless oil which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 10:1) to afford compound (15c), (41 mg, 62%); \([\alpha]_D^{22} +9.0\) (c 0.31, CHCl\(_3\)), which showed \(\delta_H\) (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.32 – 7.19 (10H, m), 4.62 (1H, d, J 11.8 Hz), 4.58 (1H, d, J 11.8 Hz), 4.48 (2H, br s), 4.36 (1H, dd, J 4.1, 11.7 Hz), 4.15 (1H, dd, J 5.5, 11.7 Hz), 3.81 – 3.72 (1H, m), 3.60 – 3.49 (3H, including br dd, J 1.6, 5.4 Hz at 3.53), 3.28 (3H, s), 2.90 (1H, br.p, J 4.1 Hz), 2.39 (1H, d, J 7.9 Hz), 2.36 (1H, br.dd, J 3.5, 7.4 Hz), 1.75 – 0.93 (143H, m), 0.83 (6H, t, J 6.8 Hz), 0.79 (3H, d, J 6.9 Hz), 0.65 – 0.54 (2H, m), 0.50 (1H, dt, J 4.0, 8.4 Hz), -0.39 (1H, br. q, J 5.2 Hz); \(\delta_C\) (101MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 175.3, 137.9, 137.8, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 85.3, 75.7, 73.4, 72.2, 72.0, 69.5, 63.4, 57.6, 51.3, 38.6, 35.4, 35.2, 32.3, 31.8, 30.4, 30.3, 30.1, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 28.9, 28.8, 28.6, 27.5, 27.4, 26.0, 25.7, 23.6, 22.9, 22.6, 15.7, 14.8, 14.0, 13.9, 10.9, 10.8; \(\nu_{max}\): 2923, 2853, 1737, 1465 cm\(^{-1}\).

(b) Palladium hydroxide on activated charcoal (0.0054 g) and ester (15c) (0.0364 g, 0.0245mmol) gave a thick colourless oil; column chromatography (chloroform/methanol, 20:1) gave the title compound (16c) (27 mg, 85%); [MALDI–Found (M+Na)\(^+\): 1322.2890, C\(_{86}\)H\(_{170}\)NaO\(_6\), requires: 1322.2895]; \([\alpha]_D^{31} +1.6\) (c 2.1, CHCl\(_3\)); \(\delta_H\) (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\) + few
drops of CD$_3$OD: 4.21 (1H, dd, $J$ 4.3, 11.4 Hz), 4.11 (1H, dd, $J$ 6.4, 11.4 Hz), 3.88 – 3.82 (1H, m), 3.66 – 3.57 (2H, including br dd, $J$ 4.3, 11.4 Hz at $\delta$ 3.6), 3.54 (1H, dd, $J$ 5.8, 11.6 Hz), 3.31 (3H, s), 2.94 (1H, br.p, $J$ 4.4 Hz), 2.40 (1H, ddd, $J$ 4.8, 7.4, 10.2 Hz), 1.81 – 0.94 (146H, m), 0.84 (6H, t, $J$ 7.0 Hz), 0.81 (3H, d, $J$ 6.9 Hz), 0.65 – 0.57 (2H, m), 0.52 (1H, dt, $J$ 4.0, 8.5 Hz), -0.37 (1H, br.q, $J$ 5.1 Hz); $\delta_C$ (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$ + few drops of CD$_3$OD): 175.5, 85.5, 72.6, 69.8, 65.1, 63.0, 57.6, 52.4, 35.3, 35.0, 32.3, 31.8, 30.4, 30.1, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.55, 29.5, 29.45, 29.4, 29.3, 28.6, 27.5, 27.4, 26.0, 25.3, 22.6, 15.7, 14.7, 14.0, 10.8; $\nu_{\text{max}}$: 3368, 2918, 2850, 1731, 1467 cm$^{-1}$.

**4.10** (S)-2,3-dihydroxypropyl (R)-2-((R)-1-hydroxy-12-((1S,2R)-2-(14-(1S,2R)-2-eicosylcyclopropyl)tetradecyl)cyclopropyl)dodecyl)hexacosanoate (16e)

(a) Cesium hydrogen carbonate (0.0605 g, 0.312 mmol), tosylate (14) (0.0293 g, 0.0687 mmol) and acid 11e (0.0711 g, 0.0624 mmol) [33] gave a thick colourless oil which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 10:1) to afford compound (15e) (51 mg, 58%); [$\alpha$]$_D^{23}$ +3.6 (c 0.88, CHCl$_3$); $\delta_H$ (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.37 – 7.26 (10H, m), 4.68 (1H, d, $J$ 11.8 Hz), 4.65 (1H, d, $J$ 11.9 Hz), 4.55 (2H, br.s), 4.43 (1H, dd, $J$ 4.0, 11.7 Hz), 4.22 (1H, dd, $J$ 5.5, 11.7 Hz), 3.86 – 3.80 (1H, m), 3.67 – 3.56 (3H, including br dd $J$ 1.6, 5.4 Hz at 3.60), 2.45 (1H, d, $J$ 7.9 Hz), 2.43 (1H, br.dd, $J$ 3.5, 7.4 Hz) 1.85 – 0.97 (134H, m), 0.89 (6H, t, $J$ 7.2 Hz), 0.70 – 0.61 (4H, m), 0.60 – 0.57 (2H, dt, $J$ 4.0, 8.5 Hz), -0.32 (2H, br q, $J$ 5.2 Hz); $\delta_C$ (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 175.4, 138.0, 137.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 121.9, 75.7, 73.4, 72.3, 72.0, 69.5, 63.4, 51.3, 35.5, 31.9, 30.1, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.45, 29.4, 29.3, 28.6, 27.4, 25.7, 22.6, 15.7, 14.0, 10.8; $\nu_{\text{max}}$: 3435, 2917, 2850, 1732, 1468 cm$^{-1}$.

(b) Palladium hydroxide on activated charcoal (0.0063g) and ester (15e) (0.0425g, 0.0305 mmol) gave a thick oil; column chromatography (chloroform/methanol, 20:1) gave the title compound (16e) (27 mg, 74%) [MALDI–Found (M+Na)$^+$: 1234.2001, C$_{88}$H$_{158}$NaO$_5$, requires: 1234.2007]; [$\alpha$]$_D^{23}$ +2.3 (c 5.2, CHCl$_3$); $\delta_H$ (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$ + few drops of CD$_3$OD): 4.22 (1H, dd, $J$ 4.4, 11.5 Hz), 4.12 (1H, dd, $J$ 6.4, 11.5 Hz), 3.89 – 3.83 (1H, m), 3.67 – 3.58 (2H, including br dd, $J$ 4.0, 11.1 Hz at 3.61), 3.55 (1H, dd, $J$ 5.8, 11.6 Hz), (1H, ddd, $J$ 4.4, 7.9, 10.0 Hz), 1.79 – 0.96 (137H, m), 0.85 (6H, t, $J$ 6.8 Hz), 0.66 – 0.57 (4H, m), 0.53 (2H, dt, $J$ 4.4, 8.4 Hz), -0.36 (2H, br.q, $J$ 5.1 Hz); $\delta_C$ (126 MHz, CDCl$_3$ + few drops of CD$_3$OD): 175.4, 72.4, 69.6, 65.0, 62.8, 52.4, 31.7, 30.0, 29.4, 29.1, 29.0, 28.5, 27.2, 25.1, 22.4, 15.5, 13.8, 10.6; $\nu_{\text{max}}$: 3400, 3017, 2917, 2850, 1733, 1468 cm$^{-1}$.

**4.11** (S)-2,3-dihydroxypropyl (R)-2-((1R)-1-hydroxy-18-((1R,2S)-2-(17S,18S)-17-methoxy-18-methylhexatriacontyl)cyclopropyl)octadecyl)hexacosanoate (16f)

(a) Cesium hydrogen carbonate (0.0351 g, 0.181 mmol), tosylate (14) (0.0170 g, 0.0399 mmol) and acid 11f (0.0455 g, 0.0362 mmol) [38]. A thick colourless oil residue which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 10:1) to afford compound (15f) (40 mg, 72%); [$\alpha$]$_D^{23}$ +6.4 (c 0.50, CHCl$_3$); $\delta_H$ (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.39 – 7.26 (10H, m), 4.70 (1H, d, $J$ 11.8 Hz), 4.66 (1H, d, $J$ 11.8 Hz), 4.57 (2H, br.s), 4.44 (1H, dd, $J$ 4.1, 11.6 Hz), 4.23 (1H, dd, $J$ 5.5, 11.7 Hz), 3.85 (1H, m), 3.69 – 3.57 (3H, including br dd, $J$ 1.6, 5.4 Hz at
4.12 (S)-2,3-dihydroxypropyl(2R)-2-((1R)-1-hydroxy-16-((1R,2S)-2-(20-methyl-19-oxo-octatriacontyl)cyclopropyl)hexadecyl)hexacosanoate (16g)

(a) Cesium hydrogen carbonate (0.0572 g, 0.295 mmol), tosylate (14) (0.0277 g, 0.0649 mmol) and acid 11g (0.0731 g, 0.0590 mmol) [35] gave a thick colourless oil which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 10:1) to afford compound (15g), (52 mg, 59%); [α]$_D^{23}$ +6.5 (c 0.55, CHCl$_3$); δ$_H$ (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.31 – 7.05 (10H, m), 4.60 (1H, d, J 11.8 Hz), 4.57 (1H, d, J 11.8 Hz), 4.47 (2H, br.s), 4.35 (1H, dd, J 4.0, 11.7 Hz), 4.14 (1H, dd, J 5.5, 11.7 Hz), 3.80 – 3.71 (1H, m), 3.58 – 3.48 (3H, including br dd, J 1.4, 5.4 Hz at 3.52), 2.48 – 2.38 (2H, including OH proton at 2.43), 2.38 – 2.29 (3H, including dt, J 5.4, 7.9 Hz, at 2.35), 1.75 – 1.01 (144H, m), 0.98 (3H, d, J 6.9 Hz), 0.81 (6H, t, J 6.7 Hz), 0.62 – 0.53 (2H, m), 0.49 (1H, dt, J 4.0, 8.5 Hz), -0.40 (1H, br.q, J 5.1 Hz); δ$_C$ (101 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 215.0, 175.7, 138.0, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 75.7, 73.4, 72.2, 72.0, 69.5, 63.4, 51.3, 46.2, 41.0, 35.4, 33.0, 31.8, 30.1, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 28.6, 27.4, 27.2, 25.7, 23.7, 23.6, 22.6, 16.3, 15.7, 14.0, 10.8; v$_{max}$: 3389, 3017, 2919, 2850, 1733, 1467 cm$^{-1}$.

(b) As above, using palladium hydroxide on activated charcoal (0.0075 g) and ester (15g) (0.0505 g), eluting with chloroform/methanol (40:1) gave the title compound (16g) (38 mg, 87%) [MALDI–Found (M+Na)$^+$: 1334.2890, C$_{88}$H$_{154}$NaO$_6$, requires: 1334.2895]; [α]$_D^{23}$ +2.8 (c 3.6, CHCl$_3$), which showed δ$_H$ (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$ + few drops of CD$_3$OD): 4.22 (1H, dd, J 4.2, 11.4 Hz), 4.11 (1H, dd, J 6.5, 11.4 Hz), 3.89 – 3.81 (1H, m), 3.68 – 3.57 (2H, including br dd, J 4.3, 11.5 Hz at δ 3.61), 3.54 (1H, dd, J 5.8, 11.6 Hz), 2.53 – 2.44 (1H, m), 2.38 (3H, including br.t, J 2.38), 1.68 – 1.05 (147H, m), 1.01 (3H, d, J 6.9 Hz), 0.84 (6H, t, J 6.7 Hz), 0.65 – 0.57 (2H, m), 0.52 (1H, dt, J 4.1, 8.4 Hz), -0.37 (1H, br q, J 5.2 Hz); δ$_C$ (126 MHz, CDCl$_3$ + few drops of CD$_3$OD): 216.0, 175.5, 72.6, 69.7, 65.1, 63.0, 52.5, 46.3, 41.1, 35.0,
32.9, 31.8, 30.1, 29.7, 29.6, 29.55, 29.5, 29.45, 29.4, 29.35, 29.3, 29.2, 29.15, 29.1, 28.6, 27.4, 27.2, 25.3, 23.6, 22.6, 16.2, 15.7, 14.0, 10.8; $\nu_{max}$: 3396, 3017, 2922, 2853, 1713, 1467 cm$^{-1}$.

Acknowledgements
OTA wishes to thank the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Mosul University for the award of a PhD studentship. We thank the EPSRC UK National Mass Spectrometry Facility at Swansea University and Dr Paul Gates (Bristol University) for carrying out accurate mass measurements.

References


Highlights:

Nine examples of R- and S-glycerol mycolates (GroMMs) based on synthetic mycolic acids matching the overall structures of alpha-, keto- and methoxy-mycolic acids of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and other mycobacteria.