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Enzyme-Catalyzed Synthesis of 2-Azido-2-deoxy-D-glucose under Catalysis by Recombinant Cellobiose Phosphorylase (CeP)

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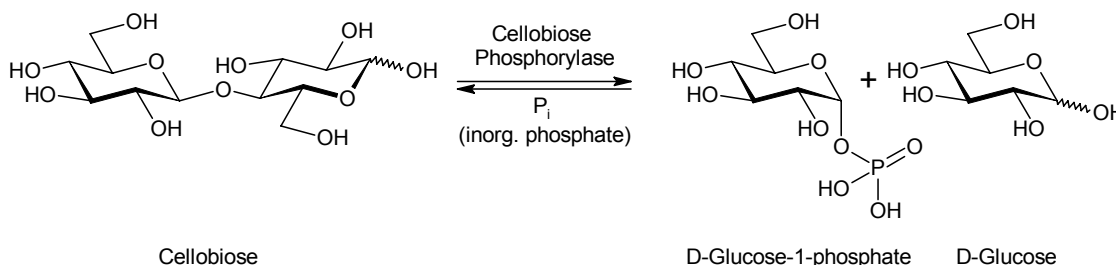
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The use of enzyme-catalyzed reactions for the synthesis of sugar substrates represents a more desirable approach in terms of "green chemistry". As the azidonitratization reaction of cellobial furnishes the 2-azido-2-deoxycellobiose stereospecifically, we have prepared 2-azido-2-deoxyglucose from 2-azido-2-deoxycellobiose using recombinant cellobiose phosphorylase (CeP) from *Clostridium thermocellum* NCIMB 10682 [1]. This enzyme catalyzes the reversible phosphorolysis of cellobiose to form α -D-glucose and α -D-Glucose-1-phosphate with inversion of the anomeric configuration (Scheme 1) [2].



2-Azido-2-deoxycellobiose is cleaved quantitatively by the action of cellobiose phosphorylase and is separated from glucose 1-phosphate by filtration through DEAE-cellulose. In this manner, we have demonstrated that the substitution of the hydroxyl group by an azido group in position 2 of the reducing cellobiose moiety is tolerated by the recombinant CeP.

[1] Wong CH, Koeller KM. Enzymes for chemical synthesis. Nature. 2001; 409: 232–240. doi:10.1038/35051706

[2] David BG, Fairbanks AJ. Carbohydrate Chemistry. Oxford University Press, 2002