

Product Information

5-FLUOROURACIL Sigma Prod. No. F5013

CAS NUMBER: 703-95-7

SYNONYMS: ENT 26398; 5-Fluorouracil; Fluorouracil; NSC 31712; FOA; 4-Pyrimidinecarboxylic Acid, 5-Fluoro-1,2,3,6-Tetrahydro-2,6-Dioxo-(9CI); RO 2-9945; 1,2,3,6-Tetrahydro-2,6-Dioxo-5-Fluoro-4-Pyrimidinecarboxylic Acid¹; WR -152520²; 5-Fluoro-6-Carboxyuracil²

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Appearance: White to white with a yellow cast powder.³

Melting Point: approx. 256-259°C⁴

Molecular Formula: C₅H₃FN₂O₄

Molecular Weight: 174.1

METHOD OF PREPARATION:

FOA is synthetically prepared⁵. Methods for the synthetic preparation and the mass spectra have been reported.^{4,6,7}

STABILITY / STORAGE AS SUPPLIED:

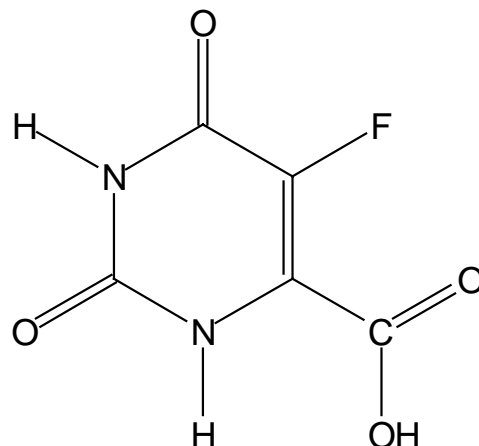
FOA is stable for at least one year when stored desiccated at -20°C.³

SOLUTION / SOLUTION STABILITY:

FOA has been dissolved at about 50 mg/ml in 4 M ammonium hydroxide producing a clear solution (sonication or heat may be needed).³ The monohydrate is partially soluble in water.² A concentration of 0.05 mg/ml of FOA was added to a tryptone medium for incubation of cultures at 80°C for four days with apparently no adverse effects to the FOA.⁸

USAGE / APPLICATIONS:

FOA (1 mg/ml) has been used as a selective agent in yeast molecular genetics⁹; in the selection of Ura⁻ cells in a population of Ura⁺ cells; and in the selection of orotidine-5-phosphate decarboxylase (OMPdecase) mutants of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.¹⁰⁻¹² FOA (0.1 mg/ml) has been used in the positive selection for uracil auxotrophs of the sulfur-dependent thermophilic archaebacterium *Sulfolobus acidocaldarius*.⁸



5-FLUOROOROTIC ACID
Sigma Prod. No. F5013

USAGE / APPLICATIONS: (continued)

The selection of OMPdecase-deficient and orotate phosphoribosyl transferase (OPRTase)-deficient mutants in the *Mucor* fungus using FOA was reported.¹³ The ability of catalytic antibodies to produce 5-fluorouracil from FOA was assessed in a bacterial strain.¹⁴ FOA inhibited the synthesis of mature cytoplasmic ribosomal RNA in rat liver cells.¹⁵ FOA is a noncompetitive inhibitor of dihydroorotase.¹⁶ FOA (50% inhibition, 6 nM) was a selective inhibitor of malarial cells of *Plasmodium falciparum* in vitro and in vivo. Inhibition is possibly due to the binding of the FOA metabolite, 5-fluoro-2'-deoxyuridylate to the *Plasmodium* thymidylate synthase.^{17,18} FOA showed anti-tumor activity against transplanted tumors in rats and mice; a bacteriostatic effect in vitro against various microorganisms, particularly gram-negative bacteria¹⁹; antimycotic activity against various types of mold.²⁰

GENERAL NOTES:

FOA is a derivative of a pyrimidine precursor and is selectively toxic to yeast cells which synthesize orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase¹⁰. FOA has been used in a positive selection for uracil-requiring mutants (in the presence of large numbers of wild-type cells) lacking OMPdecase or OPRTase activities. This results in efficient strains for effective transformation systems.¹⁰⁻¹²

REFERENCES:

1. Material Safety Data Sheet.
2. *The Merck Index*, 12th ed. #4214, p. 708.
3. Sigma Quality Control data.
4. Barton, D.H.R. et al., *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. I*, 2095, 1974.
5. Supplier data.
6. Duschinsky, et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 79, 4559, 1957.
7. Alam, S.N. and Shires, T.K., *Acta Pharm. Suec.*, 12, 375, 1975.
8. Kondo, S. et al., *J. Bacteriology*, 173, 7698, 1991.
9. Vidal, M. et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 93, 10321, 1996.
10. Boeke, J.D. et al., *Methods Enzymol.*, 154, 164, 1987.
11. Winston, F. et al., *Genetics*, 107, 179, 1984.
12. Boeke, J.D. et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 197, 345, 1984.
13. Benito, E.P. et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 248, 126, 1995.
14. Smiley, J.A. and Benkovic, S.J., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 117, 3877, 1995.
15. Garrett, C.T. et al., *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.*, 155, 342, 1973.
16. Christopherson, R.I. et al., *Biochem.*, 28, 463, 1989.
17. Hekmat-Nejad, M. and Rathod, P.K., *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.*, 40, 1628, 1996.
18. Gassis, S. and Rathod, P.K., *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.*, 40, 914, 1996.
19. Heidelberger, C. et al., *Nature*, 179, 663, 1957.
20. Nikolova, K. et al., *Methods Find. Exp. Clin. Pharmacol.* 9, 85, 1987.