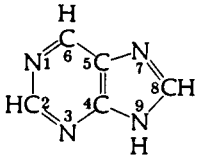
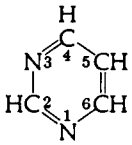
PROPERTIES OF PURINE AND PYRIMIDINE BASES

This table lists some of the important purine and pyrimidine bases that occur in nucleic acids. The pK_a values (negative logarithm of the acid dissociation constant) are given for each ionization stage. The last column gives the aqueous solubility *S* at the indicated temperature in units of grams per 100 grams of solution.

The numbering system in the rings is:



Purine



Pyrimidine

REFERENCES

1. R. M. C. Dawson, et al., *Data for Biochemical Research*, 3rd Ed., Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1986.
2. S. Budavari, Ed., *The Merck Index*, 11th Ed., Merk and Co., Rahway, NJ., 1989.

Common name	Systematic name	Mol form.	Mol. wt.	pK_a values			*S*/mass % (temp.)
		Pyrimidines					
Cytosine	4-Amino-2-hydroxypyrimidine	$C_4H_5N_3O$	111.10	4.5	12.2		0.76 (25°C)
5-Methylcytosine	4-Amino-2-hydroxy-5-methylpyrimidine	$C_5H_7N_3O$	125.13	4.6	12.4		0.45 (25°C)
5-Hydroxymethyl-cytosine	4-Amino-2-hydroxy-5-hydroxy-methylpyrimidine	$C_5H_7N_3O_2$	141.13	4.3	13		
Uracil	2,4-Dihydroxypyrimidine	$C_4H_4N_2O_2$	112.09	0.5	9.5	>13	0.36 (25°C)
Thymine	5-Methyluracil	$C_5H_6N_2O_2$	126.11	9.9	>13		0.4 (25°C)
Orotic acid	Uracil-6-carboxylic acid	$C_5H_4N_2O_4$	156.10	2.4	9.5	>13	0.18 (18°C)
		Purines					
Adenine	6-Aminopurine	$C_5H_5N_5$	135.14	<1	4.1	9.8	0.09 (25°C)
Guanine	2-Amino-6-hydroxypurine	$C_5H_5N_5O$	151.13	3.3	9.2	12.3	0.004 (40°C)
7-Methylguanine	7-Methyl-2-amino-6-hydroxypurine	$C_6H_7N_5O$	165.16	3.5	9.9		
Isoguanine	6-Amino-2-hydroxypurine	$C_5H_5N_5O$	151.13	4.5	9.0		0.006 (25°C)
Xanthine	2,6-Dioxopurine	$C_5H_4N_4O_2$	152.11	0.8	7.4	11.1	0.05 (20°C)
Hypoxanthine	6-Hydroxypurine	$C_5H_4N_4O$	136.11	2.0	8.9	12.1	0.07 (19°C)
Uric acid	2,6,8-Trihydroxypurine	$C_5H_4N_4O_3$	168.11	5.4	11.3		0.002 (20°C)