24-METHYLENE-25-METHYLCYCLOARTANOL AND 24α-ETHYL-5α-CHOLESTAN-3α-OL FROM *NEOLITSEA SERICEA*

KOUYA YANO, TOSHIHIRO AKIHISA, RYUJI KAWAGUCHI,* TOSHITAKE TAMURA and TARO MATSUMOTO

College of Science and Technology, Nihon University, 1-8, Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan; *Special Reference Laboratories, Inc., 51, Komiya-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo 192, Japan

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Abstract—A new triterpene alcohol isolated from the stems of *Neolitsea sericea* was shown to have the structure 24methylene-25-methylcycloartanol. Moreover, in addition to the common triterpene alcohols and sterols, the following uncommon compounds were isolated from the plant material and were identified: (24E)- and (24Z)-24-ethylidenecycloartanol, (24E)- and (24Z)-24-ethylidene-5 α -lanost-8-en-3 β -ol, 24-methylene-24(25)-dihydroparkeol, 24methylene-5 α -lanosta-7,9(11)-dien-3 β -ol, 24-methylenedammarenol, both C-24 epimers of 14α ,24-dimethyl-5 α cholest-9(11)-en-3 β -ol,14 α -methyl-24 α - ethyl-5 α -cholest-9(11)-en-3 β -ol, and 24 α -ethyl-5 α -cholestan-3 α -ol.

INTRODUCTION

Our recent studies [1, 2] have shown that the unsaponifiable lipid of a stem (bark and heartwood) extract of Neolitsea sericea Koidz. (Japanese name: Shirodamo) contains several uncommon and new triterpene alcohols, viz., 24*E*-ethylidene-9 β ,19-cyclo-5 α -lanostan-3 β -ol (7i), and 24Z-ethylidene-9 β ,19-cyclo-5 α -lanostan-3 β -ol (7i), 24-methylene-5 α -lanost-8-en-3 β -ol (8e), 24E-ethylidene-5α-lanost-8-en-3β-ol (8i), 24Z-ethylidene-5α-lanost-8-en- 3β -ol (8j), in addition to the common triterpene alcohols. This characteristic feature of N. sericea prompted us to undertake more detailed investigation on the unsaponifiable lipid constituents. This paper describes our further study on the triterpene alcohols and sterols from N. sericea extract which led to the isolation and characterization of further compounds including 24-methylene-25methylcycloartanol (7k, 24-methylene-25-methyl-9ß,19cyclo-5 α -lanostan-3 β -ol), a new triterpene alcohol, and stigmastan-3 α -ol (5g, 24 α -ethyl-5 α -cholestan-3 α -ol).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The composition of the triterpene alcohol fraction of *N. sericea* determined by GC as the acetyl derivative is shown in Table 1. (Two 3-oxosteroids and a 3 α -hydroxy steroid were also included in Table 1 because these compounds exhibited the same mobility as 3β -hydroxy triterpenes on silica gel column chromatography.) The RR_i data on GC and HPLC, and the mp of the acetyl derivatives of the triterpene alcohols are also given in Table 1.

The mass spectrum of 7k-acetate showed $[M]^+$ at m/z496 (C₃₄H₅₆O₂) accompanied with the major fragment ions at m/z 481 $[M-Me]^+$, 436 $[M-HOAc]^+$, 421 $[M - Me-HOAc]^+$, 357 $[M-C_{10}H_{19}$ (side chain)]⁺, 297 $[M-C_{10}H_{19}-HOAc]^+$, and 295 (m/z 297–2H), which suggested that this compound was the acetate of a C₃₂triterpene alcohol with two degrees of unsaturation. The

other fragment ions at m/z 379 (m/z 436-C₄H₉), 338 [M $-HOAc-C_7H_{14}$]⁺, 255 [m/z 297-C₃H₆ (ring D)], and 241 (m/z 255-CH₂) suggested that this had the tetracyclic skeleton with one double bond and a monounsaturated C_{10} -side chain. The peak at m/z 338 due to a McLaffety rearrangement involving cleavage of the C-22/C-23 bond with one H transfer from C-20, suggested that the double bond was located in the side chain either at $\Delta^{24(25)}$ or $\Delta^{24(24')}$ [3–5]. The ions at m/z 255 and 241 suggested that the additional methyl group in the nucleus was located at C-14 [5, 6]. Moreover, the further ion at m/z 314 [M $-C_{11}H_{18}O_2$ (ring A)]⁺, corresponding to the loss of ring A and characteristic of the 9 β ,19-cyclo tetracyclic triterpenes [5, 6], suggested the presence of 9β , 19-cyclo group in the skeleton. The presence of an ion at m/z 379 further suggested that the side chain double bond was located at $\Delta^{2\overline{4(24')}}$. The skeletal proton signals observed in the ¹H NMR spectrum of 7k-acetate at $\delta 0.971$ (3H, s, H₃-18), 0.342, 0.580 (each 1H and d, H₂-19), 0.848 (3H, s, H₃-28), 0.890 and 0.904 (each 3H, s, H₃-29 and H₃-30), 2.052 (3H, s, OAc-3 β), and 4.569 (1H, dd, H-3 α) (Table 2) were almost consistent with the corresponding signals for 24methylenecycloartanyl (7e) acetate, and hence, 7k-acetate had the cycloartane skeleton. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **7k**-acetate showed the side chain signals at $\delta 0.911$ (3H, d, J = 5.8 Hz, H₃-21), 1.061 (9H, s, H₃-26, H₃-27 and H₃-25'), and 4.667 and 4.836 (each 1H, d, J = 1.1 Hz) (H₂-24'). The t-butyl singlet deshielded to $\delta 1.061$ suggested the presence of an additional methyl group at C-25 which is linked to the double bond, and the signals were consistent with those of the sterols possessing a 24-methylene-25methyl side chain structure [7-11]. Thus, triterpene alcohol 7k was considered to have the structure 24methylene-25-methylcycloartanol.

Identification of 10e-acetate was supported by UV, MS and ¹H NMR data. A triterpene alcohol with Δ^8 -monounsaturated skeleton is known to yield the corresponding $\Delta^{7.9(11)}$ -diene upon dehydrogenation with SeO₂-AcOH



[12–14]. Thus, the reference triterpene with a $\Delta^{7.9(11)}$ diene system, 5α -lanosta-7,9(11)-dien- 3β -yl (10a) acetate, was prepared from 5α -lanost-8-en- 3β -yl (8a) acetate. Identifications of 4g and 4h were based on further mass spectra and ¹H NMR data.

The mass spectrum of **5g**-acetate gave $[M]^+$ at m/z 458 $(C_{31}H_{54}O_2)$ with the major fragment ions at m/z 443 $[M - Me]^+$, 398 $[M - HOAc]^+$, 383 $[M - Me - HOAc]^+$, and 257 $[M - HOAc - C_{10}H_{21}$ (side chain)]⁺, which suggested that this compound was the acetate of a saturated

C₂₉-sterol with a C₁₀-side chain. Further ions at m/z 355 [m/z 398-C₃H₇ (part of side chain)], 255 (m/z 257-2H), and 215 (m/z 275-HOAc) suggested that this sterol has a tetracyclic skeleton with a C₁₀-side chain. The ion observed at m/z 203 [M - C₁₀H₂₁ (side chain) - C₆H₁₀O₂ (ring A)]⁺, due to the cleavage of ring A, was typical for sterols with saturated A, B ring system [15]. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **5g**-acetate gave the side chain proton signals at δ 0.910 (H₃-21), 0.835 (H₃-26), 0.814 (H₃-27), and 0.845 (H₃-24") which were consistent with the

	Composition (%)	Acetate		
Triterpene alcohols*		RR_t^{\dagger} on GC	RR,† on HPLC	Мр
Cycloartenol (7b)	1.1	1.87	0.88	122–124°
24-Methylenecycloartanol (7e)	40.4	2.07	0.96	116118°
24E-24-Ethylidenecycloartanol (7i)	0.9	2.65) —	
24Z-24-Ethylidenecycloartanol (7j)	0.8	2.77	} 1.44	_
24-Methylene-25-methylcycloartanol (7k)	0.8	2.54	1.23	137–139°
24-Methylenelanost-8-enol (8e)	15.9	1.76	1.00	146–148°
24E-24-Ethylidenelanost-8-enol (8i)	0.8	2.25	1.28	148–150°
24Z-24-Ethylidenelanost-8-enol (8j)	4.7	2.35	1.23	156–157°
24-Methylene-24(25)-dihydroparkeol (9e)	2.6	1.99	1.00	156-158°
24-Methylenelanosta-7.9(11)-dienol (10e)	1.5	1.72	0.77	183–187°
24-Methylenedammarenol (11f)	1.3	1.78	0.75	136–137°
Lupeol (12)	14.6	1.92	0.78	222–223°
B-Amyrin (13)	6.1	1.65	0.97	241–244°
24α -Ethylcholestan- 3α -ol (5g)	1.1	1.44	n.d.‡	84–85°
24α-Ethylcholest-4-en-3-one (4g)	2.0	1.89	0.48	78 °
24α-Ethylcholesta-4.22-dien-3-one (4h)	0.7	1.52	0.44	124–126°
Others, unidentified	4.7			NAME AND ADDRESS OF

Table 1. Composition (%), chromatographic data and mp of triterpene alcohols* from Neolitsea sericea

*The triterpene alcohol fraction of *N. sericea* contained a 3α -hydroxy (**5g**) and 3-oxosteroids (**4g** and **4h**) in addition to the usual 3β -hydroxy triterpenes, and therefore the former three steroids were also included in this Table.

 $\dagger RR_t$ in GC and HPLC were expressed relative to cholesteryl acetate.

‡Not determined.

Protons	Acetate			
	7k	10a†	10e	
H ₃ -18 (s)	0.971	0.564	0.567	
$H_{2}^{-19} (2 \times d)$	0.342 (4.1)	_	—	
2	0.580 (4.7)			
H ₃ -19 (s)		1.008	1.006	
H_3-28 (s)	0.848	0.889	0.889	
$H_{3}-29(s)$	0.890	0.955	0.955	
H ₃ -30 (s)	0.904	0.881	0.881	
$OAc-3\beta$ (s)	2.052	2.056	2.059	
H-3α (dd)	4.569 (11.0, 5.8)	4.516 (11.2, 4.9)	4.512 (11.2, 4.9)	
H-7 (m)	_ ` `	5.314	5.320	
H-11 (m)	_	5.458	5.461	
$H_{3}-21(d)$	0.911 (5.8)	0.872 (6.8)	0.918 (6.4)	
$H_{3}-26(d)$)	0.867 (6.8)	1.028 (6.8)	
$H_{1}-27$ (d)	{ 1.061 (s)	0.867 (6.8)	1.033 (6.8)	
H ₃ -25' (s)	J			
H-25 (sept.)	_		2.239 (7.1)	
H ₂ -24'	4.667(d, 1.1)	_	4.667 (d, 1.5)	
*	4.836 (d, 1.1)		4.721 (s)	

Table 2. ¹HNMR data of some triterpene alcohols isolated from *Neolitsea sericea* (400 MHz, CDCl₃; TMS as int. standard)*

*Given as δ values. Figures in parentheses denote J values (Hz).

†Synthetic compound.

corresponding signals of **1g**-acetate suggesting that **5g**acetate possessed a 24 α -ethyl substituted side chain. The skeletal ¹H NMR signals of **5g**-acetate at $\delta 0.654$ (H₃-18), 0.787 (H₃-19), 2.052 (OAc-3 α), and $\delta 5.008$ (H-3 β) were consistent with the corresponding signals of 5α - cholestan- 3α -yl (**5a**) acetate, thus suggesting that **5g**acetate possesses a 3α -acetoxy- 5α -cholestane skeleton. Hence, **5g** was considered to have the structure 24α -ethyl- 5α -cholestan- 3α -ol (stigmastan- 3α -ol). Alkaline hydrolysis of **5g**-acetate afforded a free sterol **5g**. The ¹H NMR spectrum of sterol 5g was consistent with the corresponding signals of the same sterol isolated from a marine sponge [16].

Identifications of **7b** (cycloartenol), **7e** (24-methylenecycloartanol), **8i**, **8j**, **12** (lupeol), and **13** (β -amyrin) were by GC, HPLC, and mp data after isolation as the acetyl derivatives [1, 2]. Identifications of **7i** and **7j** were based on the GC data [2]. The identifications of **3c**, **3g**, **9e** and **11f** were supported by MS and ¹H NMR data after isolation as the acetyl derivatives.

The composition of the sterol fraction of *N. sericea* determined by GC of the acetyl derivatives is shown in Table 3. The *RR*_t on GC and HPLC and the mp of the acetates from *N. sericea* are given in Table 3. The ratio of the 24α - and 24β -epimers of **3c**-acetate was estimated to be 81:19 based on the averaged intensity of the relevant ¹HNMR signals. 24-Methylcholesterol (1c), 24α -ethylcholesterol (1g), 24α -ethyl-cholesterol (1g), 24α -ethyl-cholesterol (1h), and 24α -ethylcholestanol (6g) were identified as the acetyl derivatives by the GC, HPLC, and mp data.

This appears to be the first case of the isolation and characterization of 24-methylene-25-methylcycloartanol (7k) although two 4-demethylsterols [8–11] and a 4α methylsterol [7] possessing a 24-methylene-25-methyl substituted side chain have previously been reported in plants. The occurrence of a sterol possessing a 3α hydroxy group in the skeleton in higher plants is very rare. Daemia extensa R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae) [17] seems to be the only other case in which the occurrence of 3α hydroxy steroids has been reported. A marine sponge Esperiopsis edwardii [16] and marine sediments [18] contain the 3α -hydroxy steroids, cholestan- 3α -ol (5a) and stigmastan- 3α -ol (5g). This study constitutes the first case for the detection of stigmastan- 3α -ol (5g) in a higher plant. 24-Methylene-5 α -lanosta-7,9(11)-dien-3 β -ol (10e) has so far been detected only in Artabotrys odoritissimus (Annonaceae) [19], and this study represents its second detection. In addition, this appears to be the second instance for the detection of 24α - and 24β -epimers of 14 α ,24-dimethyl-5 α -cholest-9(11)-en-3 β -ol (3c) [20] and 14α -methyl- 24α -ethyl- 5α -cholest-9(11)-en- 3β -ol (3g) [21] as the natural products. The occurrence of 24α ethylcholest-4-en-3-one (4g) and 24α -ethylcholesta-4,22dien-3-one (4h), has so far been reported in some plants [22-26] and marine organisms [16, 27].

EXPERIMENTAL

Mp: uncorr. Recrystallizations were performed in Me₂CO-MeOH. Prep. TLC on silica gel (0.5 mm thick) of the unsaponifiable lipids were developed ×3 with hexane-EtOAc (6:1). Argentation (silver nitrate-silica gel, 1:4) prep. TLC (0.5 mm thick) was developed $\times 5$ using CCl₄-CH₂Cl₂ (5:1). HPLC: Partisil 5 ODS-2 column (25 cm × 10 mm i.d.), MeOH as a mobile phase (flow rate, 4 ml min⁻¹), RI detector. GC: OV-17 glass capillary column (30 m \times 0.3 mm i.d.), column temp. 260°. RR, values on the HPLC and GC were taken relative to cholesteryl (cholest-5-en-3 β -yl) acetate. High resolution EIMS (70 eV): probe. ¹H NMR: 400 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS as an int. standard. Acetylation: Ac₂O-pyridine at room temp. overnight. Alkaline hydrolysis of sterol acetate: 5% KOH-MeOH at room temp. overnight. UV spectrum was recorded in EtOH (Shimadzu UV-300 spectrometer).

The acetates of the following triterpene alcohols and sterols were used as the reference specimens: 2d [28, 29], 3c [20], 3g [21], 5a [30], 6g [31, 32], 9e [33], 11f [34].

Extraction and fractionation of triterpene alcohols and sterols. The stems of N. sericea were collected at the bank of Akigawa river of Nishi-Tama area of Tokyo. Milled and dried N. sericea stems (14 kg) were extracted with CH₂Cl₂ for 8 hr giving extracted lipid (86 g). Saponification of the lipid with 5% KOH in MeOH under reflux followed by extraction with isopropyl ether gave unsaponifiable lipid (22 g). CC of the unsaponifiable lipid on silica gel (300 g) [hexane (1 l), hexane-Et₂O (9:1, 1.5 l, then 4:1, 1.51)], hexane-EtOAc [6:1, 3.51, then, 2:1, 21] gave the triterpene alcohol fr. (5.2 g) and sterol fr. (2.25 g). (The elution was monitored by TLC on precoated silica gel.) The triterpene alcohol fr. was subjected again to CC [silica gel, 200 g; eluent, hexane-EtOAc (6:1, 21)] yielding the purified triterpene alcohol fraction (1.28 g) [1, 2]. The triterpene alcohol fraction was acetylated, and the resulting acetate (1.49 g) was subjected to argentation TLC to give 5 major bands (referred to as bands 1-5 in order of polarity, beginning with the least polar). The fr. (49 mg) from band 1 was subjected to further argentation TLC and HPLC which eventually yielded a 3x-acetoxy steroid, 5gacetate (1.2 mg), and 13-acetate (6 mg). The fr. (20 mg) from band 2 was subjected to HPLC and afforded 7b-acetate (1.1 mg). The fr. (108 mg) from band 3 was subjected to a further argentation TLC which afforded 12-acetate (6.3 mg), 7e-acetate (5 mg), a mixture of 8i- and 8j-acetate (8.9 mg), and a mixture of 7i- and 7jacetate (1.7 mg). The fraction (318 mg) from band.4 was subjected to a further argentation TLC and HPLC giving 8e-acetate (12 mg), 7k-acetate (0.5 mg), 7e-acetate (30 mg), 4g (2.6 mg) and 4h (0.8 mg), respectively. The fr. (173 mg) from the most polar band 5 was subjected to a further argentation TLC and afforded a mixture from which was isolated 10e-acetate (1.2 mg) (UV $\hat{\lambda}_{max}$ nm: 235, 242, 251), 9e-acetate (1.9 mg), and 11f-acetate (1.3 mg) was isolated by HPLC. The sterol fraction was acetylated, and the resulting acetate fraction (2.35 g) was crystallized to give crystalline (1786 mg) and filtrate portions. After evaporating the solvent of the filtrate (563 mg), this was subjected to argentation TLC to give 7 bands (referred to bands 1-7). HPLC of the fr. recovered from band 3 yielded 3c-acetate (2.1 mg) and 3gacetate (1.5 mg). The fr. from band 4 on further HPLC afforded 2d-acetate (2.1 mg). The crystallized portion contained 1c-, 1g-, 1h- and 6g-acetate of which isolation was undertaken by GC and HPLC.

Synthesis of 5α -lanosta-7,9(11)-dien-3 β -yl (10a) acetate from 5α -lanost-8-en-3 β -yl (8a) acetate. A soln of SeO₂ (2.0 g) in 96% AcOH (40 ml) was added to a soln of 8a-acetate (1.0 g) in glacial AcOH (286 ml) and mixture refluxed for 4 hr. After the usual work-up and argentation TLC, 10a-acetate was obtained (0.8 g, RR_t . GC, 1.27). UV λ_{max} nm: 234, 242, 251 (¹H NMR: Table 2). MS m/z (relative intensity): 468.3959 [M]⁺ (C₃₂H₅₂O₂, 95, requires 468.3964), 453 (18), 408 (10), 393 (26), 365 (2), 355 (8), 313 (25), 295 (13), 253 (50), 239 (13), 43 (100).

 24α -Ethyl-5 α -cholestan-3 α -ol (5g). Alkaline hydrolysis of 5g-acetate (1.2 mg) gave free sterol 5g (0.5 mg). MS m/z (rel. int.): 416 [M] ⁺ (19), 401 (8), 398 (3), 383 (9), 355 (1), 257 (6), 234 (27), 233 (37), 216 (13), 215 (65), 43 (100). (¹H NMR: Table 4).

The MS data of the acetates of 3c, 3g, 5g, 7k and 10e isolated from N, sericea in this study, are given below

Mixture of both C-24 epimers of 14α ,24-dimethyl-5 α -cholest-9(11)-en-3 β -yl (3c) acetate. MS m/z (rel. int.): 456 [M]⁺ (14), 441 (85), 396 (3), 381 (23), 329 (3), 287 (6), 273 (6), 269 (6), 227 (8), 213 (7), 43 (100).

 14α -Methyl- 24α -ethyl- 5α -cholest-9(11)-en- 3β -yl (**3g**) acetate. MS m/z (rel. int.): 470 [M]⁺ (19), 455 (81), 410 (2), 395 (24), 329 (3), 287 (5), 273 (6), 269 (5), 227 (8), 213 (8), 43 (100).

 24α -Ethyl-5 α -cholestan-3 α -yl (**5g**) acetate. MS m/z (rel. int.): 458.4095 [M]⁺ (C₃₁H₅₄O₂, 12, req. 458.4120), 443.3931 (C₃₀H₅₁O₂, 1), 398.3922 (C₂₉H₅₀, 64), 383.3675 (C₂₈H₄₇, 23),

	Composition (%)	Acetate		
Sterols		RR_t^* on GC	RR_i^* on HPLC	Мр
24-Methylcholesterol (1c)	10.4	1.31	1.14	140142°
Sitosterol (24a-ethylcholesterol, 1g)	72.1	1.63	1.29	124-126°
Stigmasterol (24a-ethyl-22-dehydrocholesterol, 1h)	12.3	1.43	1.10	144145°
24β -Methyl-22-dehydrolathosterol (2d)	0.3	1.36	0.93	170–174°
14α,24-Dimethylcholest-9(11)-enol (3c)	0.1	1.50	0.96	84-86°
14α -Methyl- 24α -ethylcholest-9(11)-enol (3g)	0,1	1.85	0.89	97–98°
24α -Ethylcholestan- 3β -ol (6g)	2.8	1.65	1.48	130-133°
Others, unidentified	1.9			_

Table 3. Composition (%), chromatographic data and mp of sterols from Neolitsea sericea

*RR, in GC and HPLC were expressed relative to cholesteryl acetate.

Table 4. ¹H NMR data of some sterols from *Neolitsea sericea* (400 MHz, CDCl₃; TMS as int. standard)*

Protons	Acetate			
	5a‡	5g	5g†	
H ₃ -18 (s)	0.652	0.654	0.651	
H ₃ -19 (s)	0.787	0.787	0.777	
$OAc-3\alpha$ (s)	2.052	2.052		
H-3 β (br s)	5.007	5.008	4.038	
$H_{3}-21(d)$	0.902 (6.6)	0.910 (6.6)	0.908 (6.6)	
H ₃ -26 (d)	0.866 (6.6)	0.835 (6.9)	0.834 (6.9)	
$H_3-27(d)$	0.862 (6.6)	0.814 (6.9)	0.813 (6.9)	
$H_3-24''(t)$		0.845 (7.5)	0.844 (7.5)	

*Given as δ values. Figures in parentheses denote J values (Hz).

†Free sterol.

‡Reference compound.

24-Methylene-25-methylcycloartanyl (7k) acetate. MS m/z (rel. int.): 496.4253 $[M]^+$ (C₃₄H₅₆O₂, 5, req. 496.4277), 481.4072 (C₃₃H₅₃O₂, 4), 436.4032 (C₃₂H₅₂, 31), 421.3865 (C₃₁H₄₉, 16), 379.3347 (C₂₆H₄₀O₂, 2), 357.2802 (C₂₄H₃₇O₂, 1), 338.3017 (C₂₅H₃₈, 2), 314.2596 (C₂₃H₃₈, 9), 297.2581 (C₂₂H₃₃, 2), 255.2087 (C₁₉H₂₇, 3), 241.1948 (C₁₈H₂₅, 2), 43.0173 (C₂H₃O₁, 100).

24-Methylene-5 α -lanosta-7,9(11)-dien-3 β -yl (10e) acetate. MS m/z (rel. int.): 480 [M]⁺ (60), 465 (6), 437 (2), 420 (3), 405 (8), 377 (3), 355 (6), 313 (9), 295 (4), 253 (19), 239 (7), 43 (100).

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