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## A new phenol glycoside from Physalis angulata

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#### ABSTRACT

A new phenol glycoside, physanguloside A (1), was isolated from *Physalis angulata* together with four known compounds. We report herein, for the first time, the presence of compounds **2–5** in the genus *Physalis*. The structures of all the compounds were established by NMR, IR, UV and HRESIMS spectroscopic analyses, and comparison with the literature data. All isolated compounds were assayed for inhibitory activity on nitric oxide production by LPS-induced in RAW 264.7 macrophages.

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**KEYWORDS** *Physalis angulata*; phenol glycoside; nitric oxide



## 1. Introduction

*Physalis angulata* L. (known in Chinese as '*ku-zhi*') is a member of the genus *Physalis* (Solanaceae) comprising approximately 120 species widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions (Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences & Kunming Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences 1978). As a traditional folk medicine, *P. angulata* has been used to cure inflammatory-related diseases, such as dermatitis, asthma, hepatitis and malaria in other countries such as Peru, Mexico and Brazil (Di Stasi et al. 1989). Phytochemical investigations of the genus *Physalis* have led to the isolation of withanolides (Chen et al. 2007; Qiu et al. 2008a; Guan et al. 2014; Nicolás et al. 2015), labdane-type

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Figure 1. Chemical constituents of P. angulata.

diterpenes (Pérez-Castorena et al. 2006, 2010; Maldonado et al. 2015), flavonoids (Qiu et al. 2008a; Maldonado et al. 2012), megastigmane glycosides (Qiu et al. 2008b), alkaloids (Basey et al. 1992; Asano et al. 1995), ceramides (Su et al. 2002) and acylsucroses (Maldonado et al. 2006). Some of the isolated compounds have shown significant pharmacological activities, including anti-inflammatory (Choi & Hwang 2003; Bastos et al. 2008; He et al. 2014), antitumor (Hsieh et al. 2006; Hseu et al. 2011; He, Zang, Feng, Wang, 2013; He, Zang, Feng, Chen, 2013; Zhang et al. 2014), immunomodulatory (Kusumaningtyas et al. 2015) and antinociceptive (Bastos et al. 2006) activities.

As part of our ongoing search to obtain potential anti-inflammatory agents from *P. angulata* (Sun et al. 2016a, 2016b), 75% EtOH extract of *P. angulata* was subjected to various chromatographic techniques to afford a new phenol glycoside, physanguloside A (1) and four known compounds including a phenylcarbinol glycoside (2), two phenol glycosides (3 and 5) and a phenethanol glycoside (4) (Figure 1). Their structural elucidations were identified by NMR, IR, UV and HRESIMS analysis. All isolated compounds were evaluated for inhibitory effects on nitric oxide production in RAW 264.7 macrophages.

## 2. Results and discussion

Physanguloside A (1) was obtained as a pale yellow amorphous powder. Its molecular formula was deduced as  $C_{20}H_{28}O_{13}$  by the positive HRESIMS m/z 499.1434 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, indicating 7 degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum of 1 showed absorption bands of hydroxy (3424 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and aromatic (1646 and 1468 cm<sup>-1</sup>) functionalities. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of 1 (Table S1) showed signals of a methoxy group at  $\delta_{H}$  3.88 (3H, s) and four aromatic protons at  $\delta_{H}$  7.69 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, H-6), 7.52 (1H, td, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, H-4), 7.25 (1H, br d, J = 7.9 Hz, H-3) and 7.07 (1H, br t, J = 7.9 Hz, H-5), suggesting the presence of 12-disubstituted benzene. In addition, two anomeric signals at  $\delta_{H}$  5.34 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz, H-1') and 4.82 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, H-1'') indicated the presence of two glycoses. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 1 revealed 20 carbon resonances, including a carboxyl carbon ( $\delta_{c}$  168.1), 6 aromatic carbons ( $\delta_{c}$  157.7, 135.0, 132.5, 122.6, 121.5 and 116.4), 2 anomeric carbons ( $\delta_{c}$  104.5 and 99.8), 10 oxygenated carbons ( $\delta_{c}$  83.1, 77.9, 77.8, 77.7, 77.5, 76.2, 71.0, 70.9,

62.5 and 61.6) and a methoxy carbon ( $\delta_c$  52.8). The above NMR data indicated that **1** was a phenol glycoside.

HPLC with an optical rotation detector (HPLC-OR) is widely used to determine enantiomers (Yamamoto et al. 2008), and can also be performed for the configuration of glycoses (Sun et al. 2016b; Wang et al. 2016). Two glycoses were identified by HPLC-OR analysis for hydrolysed products of **1** to be D-glucose. The anomeric configurations of two glucoses were deduced as a  $\beta$ -orientation based on the coupling constants [ $\delta_{H}$  5.34 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz, H-1') and 4.82 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, H-1'')] (Sun et al. 2016b). In the HMBC spectrum of **1**, long-range correlations of H-1' with C-2, H-1'' with C-2', H-6 with C-7, and OCH<sub>3</sub> with C-7 (Figure S1) indicated the locations of two glucoses, the methoxy group and the ester carbonyl group. The NOESY cross-peaks of H-3 with H-1'/H-4, H-4 with H-5, and H-5 with H-6 (Figure S1) further confirmed the above conclusion. Taking all above data into consideration, the structure of physanguloside A (1) was defined as methyl 2-(2'-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyloxybenzoate.

In addition, the investigation of the 75% EtOH extract of *P. angulata* led to the isolation of four known compounds, including benzylalchohol *O*- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (**2**) (Kawahara et al. 2005), gaultherin (**3**) (Wang et al. 2011), phenethanol- $\beta$ -vicianoside (**4**) (Wang et al. 2012) and guaiacyl- $\beta$ -D-primeveroside (**5**) (Mayr et al. 2014). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of compounds **2**–**5** in the genus *Physalis*.

Nitric oxide (NO) is a well-known cellular signalling molecule and is considered as an important regulator in many physiological mechanisms (Turtay et al. 2015; Bahnson et al. 2016; Ren et al. 2016). Pharmacological studies have indicated that inflammation is related to overproduction of NO (Mulligan et al. 1991). *P. angulata* is a traditional folk medicine used to treat inflammatory-related conditions, such as dermatitis, asthma, hepatitis and malaria. In our previous studies, some compounds isolated from *P. angulata*, such as physangulatins I, J and K, physagulides I and K and physagulin I, displayed a potent inhibition of NO production (Sun et al. 2016a, 2016b). Therefore, all isolated compounds (1–5) were evaluated for inhibitory effects on NO production induced by LPS in RAW 264.7 macrophages (Table S2). However, none of the isolates displayed significant inhibitory effect against NO production.

### 3. Experimental

### 3.1. General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 241 polarimeter (Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA). UV spectra were measured with a Shimadzu UV 2201 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan). IR spectra were carried out on a Bruker IFS 55 spectrometer (Bruker Optics, Ettlingen, Germany). NMR experiments were performed on Bruker AV-400 and AV-600 spectrometers (Bruker Biospin, Fallanden, Switzerland). Chemical shift values are expressed in  $\delta$  (ppm) using the peak signals of the solvent MeOH- $d_4$  ( $\delta_{\rm H}$  3.31 and  $\delta_{\rm C}$  49.2) as the reference. HRESIMS were obtained on an Agilent 6210 TOF mass spectrometer (Palo Alto, USA). AB-8 resins were purchased from the Chemical Plant of NanKai University (Tianjin, China). Silica gel GF254 used to prepare TLC plates and silica gel (200–300 mesh) for column chromatography (CC) were obtained from Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory (Qingdao, China). Sephadex LH-20 was a product of Pharmacia (Amersharm, Sweden).

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Octadecyl silica gel was purchased from Merck Chemical Company Ltd (Darmstadt, German). RP-HPLC equipped with an LC-6AD liquid chromatograph, SPD-20A UV detector (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) and ODS column ( $250 \times 20$  mm, 5  $\mu$ m, 120 Å, YMC Co. Ltd) was used for the separation. All reagents were purchased from Tianjin Damao Chemical Company (Tianjin, China). Spots were detected on TLC plates under UV light or heated after spraying with anisaldehyde-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> reagent.

## 3.2. Plant material

The stems and leaves of *P. angulata* were collected in Nanning, Guangxi Province, China, in July 2013. It was identified by Jia-Fu Wei, Guangxi Institute for Food and Drug Control, and a voucher specimen (PA-20130826) has been deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Natural Products Chemistry, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University.

## 3.3. Extraction and isolation

The dried stems and leaves of *P. angulata* (9.5 kg) were extracted with 75% EtOH (110 L × 2 h × 2). The extract (1.3 kg) was concentrated *in vacuo*, suspended with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 L), and partitioned with petroleum ether (5 L × 3), EtOAc (5 L × 3) and *n*-BuOH (5 L × 3), successively. The *n*-BuOH extract (102.0 g) was subjected to AB-8 resin CC (10 × 80 cm) eluted with EtOH/ H<sub>2</sub>O (0:100, 30:70, 60:40 and 95:5) to obtain four fractions (B1–B4). Fraction B2 (10.0 g) was separated by ODS CC (3 × 50 cm), MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O as eluent (1:9 to 1:0), yielding three subfractions (B21–B23). Subfraction B23 (2.0 g) was purified by a Sephadex LH-20 column (3 × 80 cm) using MeOH as eluent to afford three subfractions (B231-B233). Finally, compounds **1** (15 mg,  $t_R = 20$  min), **2** (38 mg,  $t_R = 15$  min), **3** (21 mg,  $t_R = 16$  min), **4** (5 mg,  $t_R = 34$  min) and **5** (3 mg,  $t_R = 24$  min) were obtained from subfraction B232 (870 mg) by preparative a HPLC analysis (CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O, 20:80).

Physanguloside A (1): pale yellow amorphous powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 29.3$  (c 0.075, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log  $\varepsilon$ ) 222 (3.9), 289 (3.9) nm; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3396, 2921, 2850, 1717, 1646, 1468, 1384, 1122 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ ) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ ) data, see Table S1; HRESIMS m/z 499.1434 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>13</sub>Na, 499.1428).

## 3.4. Acid hydrolysis of compound 1

Compound **1** (4 mg) was dissolved in 2 M HCl (3.0 mL) and stirred at 90 °C for 3 h (Sun et al. 2016b; Wang et al. 2016). The reaction mixture was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>, and the aqueous layer was evaporated to give a monosaccharide. The residue was analysed by HPLC using a Jasco LC-NetII/ADC system, equipped with a Jasco OR-4090 detector, a gradient pump, and a Shodex Asahipak NH2P-50 4E column (250 × 4.6 mm, 5 µm). A 20 µL sample was injected, and the mobile phase was a solvent of CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O (75:25). The HPLC spectrum of D-glucose (No. 492–61-5, ChromaDex Inc., USA) showed the positive peak at 12.5 min, and that of L-glucose (No. 921–60-8, Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., LTD, Japan) showed the negative peak at 12.5 min.

## 3.5. NO Production Bioassay

All compounds were assayed for the inhibition of NO production according to Griess method (Li et al. 2010; Sun et al. 2016a).  $1 \times 10^6$  Cells/well of RAW 264.7 cells were placed into 96-well plates, and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h by the stimulation of LPS (1 µg/mL) with or without test compounds. After the addition of Griess reagent [0.1% *N*-(1-naphthyl)ethylenediamine (50 µL); 1% sulphanilamide in 5% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (50 µL)], absorbance (540 nm) was recorded using a microplate reader. The standard curve was used to calculate the NO concentrations and inhibitory rates.

## 4. Conclusion

In summary, a new phenol glycoside (1) and four known compounds (2–5) were isolated from the stems and leaves of *P. angulata*. This is the first report about the presence of phenol glycoside derivatives (2–5) in the genus *Physalis*. Furthermore, compounds 1–5 were evaluated for their effects on NO production in RAW 264.7 macrophages.

## **Supplementary material**

Supplementary material relating to this article is available online, alongside with Figures S1–S10.

## **Disclosure statement**

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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