

Eremophilane Glucosides from *Petasites japonicus*

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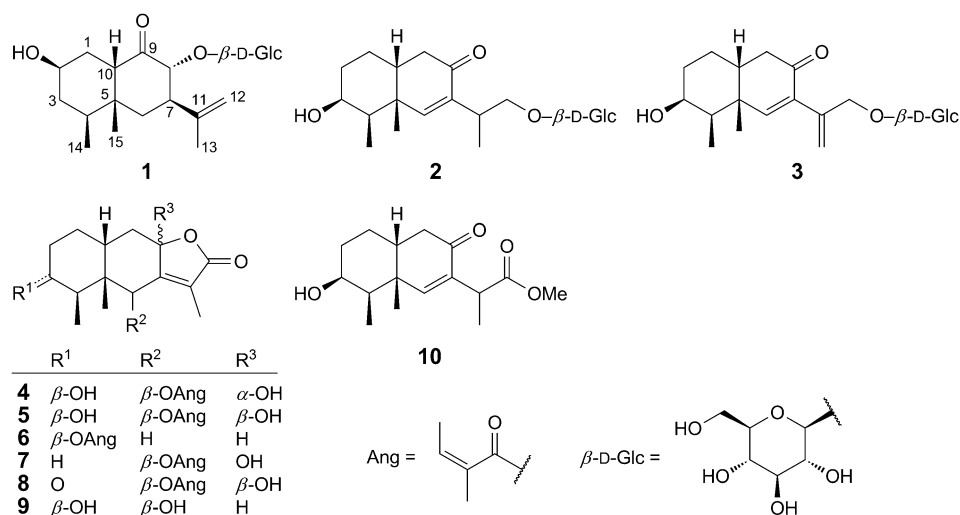
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Three new eremophilane glucosides, namely, petasitosides A–C, and seven known eremophilane-type sesquiterpenoids were isolated from the roots of *Petasites japonicus*. Their structures were elucidated by spectroscopic techniques including 1D- and 2D-NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. This is the first report on eremophilane glycosides from the genus *Petasites*.

Introduction. – *Petasites japonicus* (SIEBOLD & ZUCC.) MAXIM., also known as *Butterbur*, is a herbaceous perennial plant in the family of Asteraceae. In China, the whole plant has been used as a traditional Chinese medicine against tonsillitis, carbuncle swollen boils, and poisonous snake bite [1]. It is also cultivated in Japan and South Korea, where it is consumed as a common vegetable. The flower bud is baked and used in traditional medicine as an expectorant or in the treatment of asthma in Japan [2]. Sesquiterpenoids, especially eremophilanes [3–6], have been previously reported as the main constituents of this plant. Pharmacological studies have suggested that *P. japonicus* extracts possess a variety of biological features such as neuro-protective [7–9], anti-allergic [2][10], antimutagenic, and cytotoxic [11–13] activities.

In an *in vivo* model of active systemic anaphylaxis (ASA), our preliminary pharmacological experiments had revealed that the CHCl₃-soluble fraction of the 95% EtOH extract taken from the rhizomes blocked type-I and type-IV allergic inflammation [14]. Further chemical investigation of this plant resulted in the isolation of three new eremophilane sesquiterpenoid glucosides, **1–3**, along with seven known sesquiterpenoids, **4–10** (Fig. 1).

Results and Discussion. – The CH₂Cl₂-soluble fraction from the 95% EtOH extract of the roots of *P. japonicus* was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (200–300 mesh), eluting with a gradient of petroleum ether/AcOEt. Further purification by column chromatography using silica gel, *Sephadex LH-20*, and *ODS* yielded **4–8**. The BuOH-soluble fraction from the 95% EtOH extract of the roots of *P. japonicus*, was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (200–300 mesh) with a gradient of CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 20:1 to MeOH to afford 16 fractions. After further purification on *ODS*, **1–3**, **9**, and **10** were obtained. Among the isolated compounds, the known compounds **4–10**, which have previously been reported from this genus, were identified as

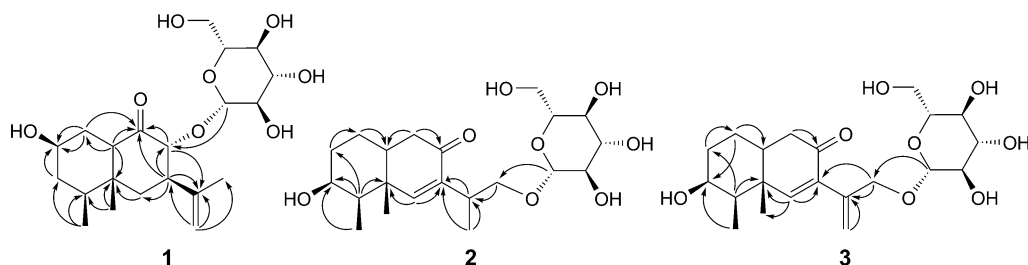
Fig. 1. Chemical structures of **1–10**

6 β -(angeloyloxy)-3 β ,8 α -dihydroxyeremophil-7(11)-en-12,8 β -olide (**4**) [4], 6 β -(angeloyloxy)-3 β ,8 β -dihydroxyeremophil-7(11)-en-12,8 α -olide (**5**) [4], 3 β -(angeloyloxy)eremophilenolide (**6**) [15], 6 β -(angeloyloxy)-8-hydroxyeremophilenolide (**7**) [16], 6 β -(angeloyloxy)-8 β -hydroxy-3-oxoeremophil-7(11)-en-12,8 α -olide (**8**) [1], 3 β ,6 β -dihydroxyeremophilenolide (**9**) [17], and 3 β -hydroxy-8-oxoeremophil-6-en-12-oic acid methyl ester (**10**) [18].

The structures of the new compounds were elucidated by using various spectroscopic methods. Compound **1** was obtained as white amorphous powder with the molecular formula of C₂₁H₃₄O₈ deduced from the HR-ESI mass spectrum (m/z 437.2164 ($[M + Na]^+$)), indicating five degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum indicated the presence of OH (3379 cm⁻¹), and C=O (1716 cm⁻¹) groups. In the ¹³C-NMR spectrum (Table), the signals at δ (C) 102.4, 76.9, 76.2, 73.4, 69.9, and 61.3 indicated the presence of one glucosyl moiety. The glucosyl H-atom signals were detected at δ (H) 4.32 (d , J = 7.6, 1 H), 3.84 (dd , J = 11.9, 2.0, 1 H), 3.66 (dd , J = 11.9, 5.8, 1 H), and 3.19–3.32 (overlapped, 4 H) in its ¹H-NMR spectrum (Table). Acid hydrolysis and GC analysis of **1** confirmed the presence of D-glucose. The ¹³C-NMR and DEPT-135 data indicated that the aglycon of **1** contained 15 C-atoms including those of three Me, four CH₂, five CH groups, and three quaternary C-atoms. One C=O signal at δ (C) 210.0, two O-bearing C-atom signals at δ (C) 65.5 (CH) and 81.3 (CH), and the signals at δ (C) 144.9 (C) and 112.5 (CH₂), ascribed to the C(11)=C(12) bond, were observed. In the ¹H-NMR spectrum, there were three Me signals at high field (δ (H) 1.85 (s), 1.09 (s), and 0.82 (d , J = 6.7)). Among them, the signal at δ (H) 1.85 suggested that the corresponding Me group was attached to an olefinic C-atom. These observations and the HMBC analysis (Fig. 2) suggested that **1** had a typical eremophilane skeleton. In the HMBC spectrum, long-range correlations were observed between H–C(1), H–C(8), H–C(10), and C(9); H–C(1), H–C(3), and C(2); H–C(12), and C(11),

Table. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR (400 and 100 MHz, resp., CD_3OD) Data of **1–3**. δ in ppm, J in Hz.

Position	1		2		3	
	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$
1	1.44–1.51 (<i>m</i>), 2.21–2.26 (<i>m</i>)	29.6	1.38–1.46 (<i>m</i>), 1.58–1.63 (<i>m</i>)	26.4	1.51–1.62 (<i>m</i>), 1.63–1.67 (<i>m</i>)	26.6
2	3.95–4.04 (<i>m</i>)	65.5	1.53–1.60 (<i>m</i>)	26.9	1.56–1.61 (<i>m</i>)	26.9
3	1.29–1.38 (<i>m</i>), 1.68–1.71 (<i>m</i>)	38.5	3.64–3.71 (<i>m</i>)	69.9	3.73–3.78 (<i>m</i>)	69.9
4	1.48–1.54 (<i>m</i>)	31.6	1.85–1.91 (<i>m</i>)	44.6	1.87–1.95 (<i>m</i>)	44.6
5	–	39.8	–	39.8	–	40.2
6	1.82–1.84 (<i>m</i>)	39.6	6.61 (<i>s</i>)	155.6	6.78 (<i>s</i>)	158.8
7	2.56 (<i>dt</i> , $J = 11.9, 4.3$)	47.1	–	138.2	–	136.3
8	4.56 (<i>d</i> , $J = 11.9$)	81.3	–	199.8	–	199.5
9	–	210.0	2.20 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 17.3, 2.1$), 2.74 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 17.3, 4.5$)	40.4	2.27 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 17.1, 2.2$), 2.77 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 17.3, 4.3$)	40.7
10	2.67 (<i>d</i> , $J = 3.2$)	55.3	2.03–2.09 (<i>m</i>)	35.3	2.06–2.10 (<i>m</i>)	35.5
11	–	144.9	2.94–3.03 (<i>m</i>)	32.7	–	142.8
12	4.90 (<i>br. s</i>), 4.94 (<i>br. s</i>)	112.5	3.41 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 7.0, 9.4$), 3.92 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 6.5, 9.4$)	72.9	4.34 (<i>d</i> , $J = 12.6$), 4.54 (<i>d</i> , $J = 12.6$)	70.4
13	1.85 (<i>s</i>)	18.4	1.11 (<i>d</i> , $J = 7.0$)	15.7	5.21 (<i>d</i> , $J = 1.5$), 5.34 (<i>d</i> , $J = 1.5$)	115.8
14	0.82 (<i>d</i> , $J = 6.7$)	20.2	1.00 (<i>d</i> , $J = 7.0$)	6.3	1.00 (<i>d</i> , $J = 7.0$)	6.3
15	1.09 (<i>s</i>)	14.3	1.24 (<i>s</i>)	24.4	1.29 (<i>s</i>)	24.1
Glc						
1'	4.32 (<i>d</i> , $J = 7.6$)	102.4	4.24 (<i>d</i> , $J = 7.8$)	103.1	4.27 (<i>d</i> , $J = 7.8$)	101.6
2'	3.24 (overlapped)	73.4	3.16 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 9.1, 7.8$)	73.8	3.17 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 9.1, 7.8$)	73.7
3'	3.32 (overlapped)	76.2	3.26 (overlapped)	76.5	3.24 (overlapped)	76.5
4'	3.30 (overlapped)	69.9	3.25 (overlapped)	70.4	3.24 (overlapped)	70.4
5'	3.19 (overlapped)	76.9	3.34 (overlapped)	76.7	3.34 (overlapped)	76.9
6'	3.66 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 11.9, 5.8$), 3.84 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 11.9, 2.0$)	61.3	3.67 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 11.9, 5.5$), 3.88 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 11.9, 1.6$)	61.6	3.64 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 11.9, 5.4$), 3.87 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 11.9, 1.4$)	61.6

Fig. 2. Key HMBCs ($\text{H} \rightarrow \text{C}$) of **1–3**

$\text{C}(13)$, and $\text{C}(7)$. These data confirmed the presence of the $\text{C}(11)=\text{C}(12)$ bond and the $\text{C}(9)=\text{O}$ group, and the two OH groups were at $\text{C}(2)$ and $\text{C}(8)$. The position of the sugar residue was also determined from the HMBC experiment, in which there were cross-peaks between the anomeric H-atom signals at $\delta(\text{H})$ 4.32 ($\text{H}-\text{C}(1')$) and $\delta(\text{C})$

81.3 (C(8)). The β -anomeric configuration of the D-glucose unit was determined based on its coupling constant ($J = 7.6$). All ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR signals (*Table*) were assigned on the basis of the HMBC, HSQC, and ^1H , ^1H -COSY correlations. The relative configuration of **1** was determined by the NOESY correlations shown in *Fig. 3*. The NOE cross-peak H–C(10)/Me(15) suggested a *cis*-junction of the A/B rings. The NOE correlations between H $_{\alpha}$ –C(2) and H $_{\alpha}$ –C(4), and H $_{\beta}$ –C(8) and H $_{\beta}$ –C(10) implied that the OH groups at C(2) and C(8) were β - and α -oriented, respectively [19]. The configuration at C(7) was deduced from the coupling constant of 11.9 Hz between H–C(7) and H–C(8), indicating their *trans* diaxial orientation [20]. The structure of **1** was thus elucidated as (2 β ,8 α)-2-hydroxy-9-oxoeremophil-11-en-8-yl β -D-glucopyranoside and named petasitoside A.

Compound **2**, obtained as white amorphous powder, was assigned the molecular formula $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_8$ according to its HR-ESI-MS (m/z 437.2150 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$)). The IR spectrum indicated that an OH (3386 cm^{-1}) and a C=C group (1658 cm^{-1}) were present. There was a glucosyl moiety as revealed by ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR (*Table*) and acid hydrolysis. In the ^1H -NMR spectrum, signals of three tertiary Me groups were observed ($\delta(\text{H})$ 1.24, 1.11, and 1.00). The ^1H -NMR spectrum also revealed the presence of one CH–O ($\delta(\text{H})$ 3.64–3.71) and one CH $_2$ O group ($\delta(\text{H})$ 3.41 and 3.92). The aglycon structure of **2** was determined as 3,12-dihydroxy-8-oxoeremophil-6-ene according to HMBC analysis (*Fig. 2*). The ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra of the aglycone moiety were similar to those of 3 β -hydroxy-8-oxoeremophil-6-en-12-oic acid methyl ester [18], except that the C(12)OOH group was reduced to a primary alcohol in the former. The HMBC between the signals at $\delta(\text{H})$ 4.24 (H–C(1')) and $\delta(\text{C})$ 72.9 (C(12)) revealed that the glucosyl moiety was at C(12). All H- and C-atom signals (*Table*) were assigned based on HMBC, HSQC, and ^1H , ^1H -COSY correlations. The relative configuration of **2** was determined by the NOESY correlations shown in *Fig. 3*. In the NOESY spectrum, the correlations H $_{\beta}$ –C(10)/Me(15), H–C(6)/H $_{\alpha}$ –C(3), and H–C(6)/H $_{\alpha}$ –C(4) suggested that the Me(15) group was *cis* to H–C(10), and the OH group at C(3) was β -oriented [18][20]. Thus, the structure of **2** was elucidated as 3 β -hydroxy-8-oxoeremophil-6-en-12-yl β -D-glucopyranoside and named petasitoside B.

Compound **3** was white amorphous powder with a molecular formula $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_8$ based on the HR-ESI-MS (m/z 435.1996 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$)), indicating six degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum indicated that OH (3386 cm^{-1}) groups and a C=C bond (1662 cm^{-1}) were present. There was a glucosyl moiety revealed by ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR (*Table*) and acid hydrolysis. The ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra of **3** were similar to those of **2**, except that the Me(13) group was replaced by a CH $_2$ (13)= group ($\delta(\text{C})$ 115.8). All ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR signals (*Table*) were assigned on the basis of

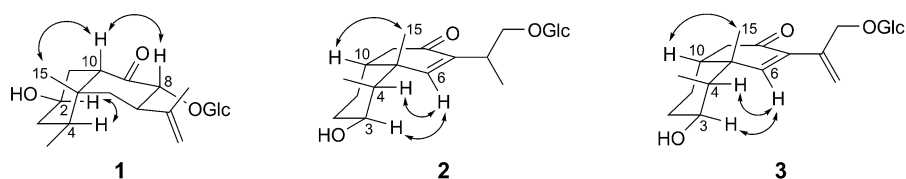


Fig. 3. Key NOE correlations of **1–3**

HMBC, HSQC, and $^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY correlations. The relative configuration of **3** was determined by the NOESY correlations shown in Fig. 3. Therefore, **3** was deduced as 3 β -hydroxy-8-oxoeremophila-6,11(13)-dien-12-yl β -D-glucopyranoside, named as petasitoside C.

Eremophilane-type sesquiterpenes belong to the bicyclic sesquiterpene group, whose basic skeletal structure contains two six-membered rings and four Me groups. These compounds often occur in oxygenated forms such as eremophilane alcohols, eremophilane acids, eremophilane lactones, furanoeremophilanes, or rare eremophilane glycosides [21][22] in nature. Some special structures such as noreremophilanes [3], secoeremophilanes [22], and eremophilane dimers [23] also have been found. Many of them possess biological or therapeutic properties including antitumor, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory activities. Although a series of eremophilane sesquiterpenes were isolated previously, this is the first report of eremophilane glycosides from this genus.

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Experimental Part

General. TLC: HSGF₂₅₄ silica gel plates (SiO_2 ; 10–40 μm ; Yantai Jiangyou, P. R. China). Column chromatography (CC): SiO_2 (100–200, 200–300, or 300–400 mesh; Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Company, P. R. China), Sephadex LH-20 (GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Sweden), and ODS-A-HG (S-50 μm ; YMC Co., Ltd., Japan). GC: Thermo TRACE DSQ apparatus equipped with a TR-5 column (length, 60 m $\times$ 0.25 mm, thickness of liquid phase, 0.25 nm). Optical rotations: PerkinElmer 341 polarimeter. UV Spectra: Agilent 8453 spectrometer (Agilent, Santa Clara, USA); λ_{max} in nm. IR Spectra: Nicolet-Magna-750-FT-IR spectrometer (ThermoFisher, Madison, USA); KBr pellets; $\tilde{\nu}$ in cm^{-1} . ^1H -, ^{13}C - and 2D-NMR spectra: Bruker AV-400 instrument (^1H : 400 and ^{13}C : 100 MHz); δ in ppm rel. to Me_4Si as internal standard, J in Hz. ESI- and HR-ESI-MS: Finnigan LCQ Deca XP equipped with an electrospray ionization source mass ion-trap spectrometer and Waters Micromass Q-TOF ultima Globe spectrometer, resp.; in m/z .

Plant Materials. Roots of *P. japonicus* were collected in March 2011 from Bozhou area, Anhui Province, P. R. China, and identified by Prof. Xiujia Zhou at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. A voucher sample (20110301) was deposited with the School of Pharmacy, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, P. R. China.

Extraction and Isolation. Dried and milled roots of *P. japonicus* (20.0 kg) were extracted three times (2 h each) under reflux in 95% EtOH (20 l each). The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to yield a crude extract (2.4 kg), which was suspended in H_2O (5 l), and then partitioned with petroleum ether (PE; 15 l), CH_2Cl_2 (15 l), and BuOH (15 l), to afford 325 g of CH_2Cl_2 -soluble fraction and 100 g of BuOH-soluble fraction.

The CH_2Cl_2 -soluble fraction was then subjected to CC (SiO_2 (200–300 mesh); PE/AcOEt 19:1 to 1:1) to give seven fractions, Frs. 1–7. Compounds **4** and **5** (15 g) were crystallized as a mixture in CH_2Cl_2 /MeOH from Fr. 5. Fr. 3 was subjected repeatedly to CC (SiO_2 (300–400 mesh); PE/AcOEt 10:1 to 1:1), followed by CC (Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH) and ODS (80% MeOH)) to furnish **6** (15 mg), **7** (10 mg), and **8** (12 mg).

The BuOH-soluble fraction was subjected to CC (SiO_2 (200–300 mesh); CH_2Cl_2 /MeOH 20:1 to MeOH) to afford 16 fractions, Frs. 1–16. Fr. 4 was decolorized by CC (MCI gel (CHP20P, Mitsubishi Chemical Corp., Japan). The fraction eluted from 40% MeOH was subjected to CC repeatedly (Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH) and ODS (55% MeOH)) to afford **9** (11 mg). Fr. 9 also was subjected to CC

on *MCI* for decolorization, and its 20, 40, and 60% MeOH eluting fractions were further purified by a combination of CC (SiO_2 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 15:1 to 6:1), *Sephadex LH-20* (MeOH), and *ODS* (40% MeOH)) to yield **10** (27 mg), **1** (29 mg), **2** (5 mg), and **3** (4 mg).

Determination of Sugar Components. Compounds (0.5 mg each) were refluxed in 10% HCl/dioxane 1:1 (2 ml) for 2 h, and the solvent was evaporated under N_2 . The residue was dissolved in pyridine (100 μL), 0.1 mL-cysteine methyl ester hydrochloride (200 μL) was added, and the mixture was warmed and kept at 60° for 1 h. The trimethylsilylation reagent HMDS-TMCS (hexamethyldisilazane/ Me_3SiCl /pyridine 2:1:10) was added, and the mixture was kept at 60° for another 30 min. The thiazolidine derivatives were subjected to GC analysis. D-Glucose (t_R 41.31 min) was identified by comparison with an authentic sample.

Petasitoside A ($= (2\beta,8\alpha)$ -2-Hydroxy-9-oxoeremophil-11-en-8-yl β -D-Glucopyranoside $= (2R,3R,4aR,5S,7R,8aS)$ -Decahydro-7-hydroxy-4a,5-dimethyl-3-(1-methylethenyl)-1-oxonaphthalen-2-yl β -D-Glucopyranoside; **1**). Amorphous powder. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +32.3$ ($c = 0.10$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 212, 242. IR (KBr): 3379, 1716, 1643, 1078, 1030. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR: see the Table. ESI-MS (pos.): 415 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$), 437 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$). HR-ESI-MS: 437.2164 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{34}\text{NaO}_8^+$; calc. 437.2151).

Petasitoside B ($= 3\beta$ -Hydroxy-8-oxoeremophil-6-en-12-yl β -D-Glucopyranoside $= 2$ -[(4aR,7S,8R,8aR)-3,4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-Octahydro-7-hydroxy-8,8a-dimethyl-3-oxonaphthalen-2-yl]propyl β -D-Glucopyranoside; **2**). Amorphous powder. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -55.0$ ($c = 0.10$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 209, 239. IR (KBr): 3386, 1658, 1078, 1032. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR: see the Table. ESI-MS: 415 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$). HR-ESI-MS: 437.2150 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{34}\text{NaO}_8^+$; calc. 437.2151).

Petasitoside C ($= 3\beta$ -Hydroxy-8-oxoeremophila-6,11(13)-dien-12-yl β -D-Glucopyranoside $= 2$ -[(4aR,7S,8R,8aR)-3,4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-Octahydro-7-hydroxy-8,8a-dimethyl-3-oxonaphthalen-2-yl]prop-2-en-1-yl β -D-Glucopyranoside; **3**). Amorphous powder. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -70.7$ ($c = 0.09$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 211, 239. IR (film): 3386, 1662, 1080, 1034. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR: see the Table. ESI-MS (pos.): 413 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$), 435 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$). HR-ESI-MS: 435.1996 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{NaO}_8^+$; calc. 435.1995).

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