



Phenolics from *Maytenus senegalensis*

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Abstract

Two new methylated flavan-3-ol glucosides and a methylated proanthocyanidin were isolated from the MeOH extract of the stem-bark of *Maytenus senegalensis*, together with five known compounds. The structures of the new compounds were determined as: (–)-4'-methylepigallocatechin 5-*O*- β -glucopyranoside, (+)-4'-methylgallocatechin 3'-*O*- β -glucopyranoside and (–)-epicatechin (4 β → 8) (–)-4'-methylepigallocatechin by chemical and spectroscopic means. The MeOH and H₂O extracts showed moderate inhibitory effects against HIV-1 protease. © 1998 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: *Maytenus senegalensis*; Celastraceae; Methylated flavan-3-ols; Proanthocyanidins

1. Introduction

The aqueous extract of the stem-bark of *Maytenus senegalensis* (Celastraceae) is an important herbal remedy in folk medicine in the Sudan. Its vernacular name is “Dabalab” and it has been widely used to treat tumors, dysentery and snake-bites. Most of the chemical work described in the literature has been confined to other *Maytenus* species (Kupchan & Smith, 1977; Brüning & Wagner, 1978; Shiota, Tamemura, Morita, Takeya & Itokawa, 1996), with little work on *M. senegalensis* (Tin-Wa, Farnsworth, Fong, Blomster, Troja'nek et al., 1971; Abraham, Troja'nek, Münzing, Fong & Farnsworth, 1971; Gómez-serranillos & Zaragoza, 1979; Delle Monache, Pomponi, Marin-Bettolo, Leoncio D'Albuquerque & Goncalves de Lima, 1976). (–)-4'-Methylepigallocatechin, (–)-epiafzelechin (4 β → 8) (–)-4'-methylepigallocatechin (ouratea-proanthocyanidin) and maytenonic acid have been isolated from this species (Brüning & Wagner, 1978; Abraham et al., 1971; Delle Monache et al., 1976). Ethanolic extracts of the stems of *M. senegalensis* demonstrated cytotoxic effects against carcinoma in cell cultures and leukemia in mice (Tin-Wa et al., 1971). Upon antiviral screening of medicinal plants,

MeOH and H₂O extracts of *M. senegalensis* showed moderate inhibitory effects against HIV-1 protease with IC₅₀ values of 104 and 88 μ g/ml respectively (Otake, Mori, Morimoto, Ueba, Sutardjo et al., 1995), whereas acetylpepstatin, as positive inhibitory control, showed an IC₅₀ of 0.24 μ M.

We describe here the isolation and structure elucidation of new methylated flavanol glucosides (**2**, **4**) and a methylated proanthocyanidin (**6**) from the MeOH extract of the stem-bark of *M. senegalensis*.

2. Results and discussion

The defatted MeOH extract of the stem-bark of *M. senegalensis* was partitioned between EtOAc and H₂O to give EtOAc-soluble and H₂O-soluble fractions. Repeated CC of the EtOAc-soluble fraction afforded five compounds (**1**, **3** and **5–7**) (Fig. 1). Likewise, the H₂O-soluble fraction afforded three compounds (**2**, **4** and **8**) (Fig. 1). The known compounds were (–)-4'-methylepigallocatechin (**1**) (Drewes & Mashibaye, 1993), (–)-epigallocatechin (**3**), epicatechin (4 β → 8) epigallocatechin (**5**) and epicatechin (4 β → 8) epicatechin (procyanidin B-2) (**7**) (Nonaka, Kawahara & Nishioka, 1983; Nonaka, Hsu & Nishioka, 1981; Porter, Newman, Foo, Wong & Hemingway, 1982; Hashimoto, Nonaka & Nishioka, 1989), and phloroglucinol 1-*O*- β -D-glucopyranoside (**8**), and identifi-

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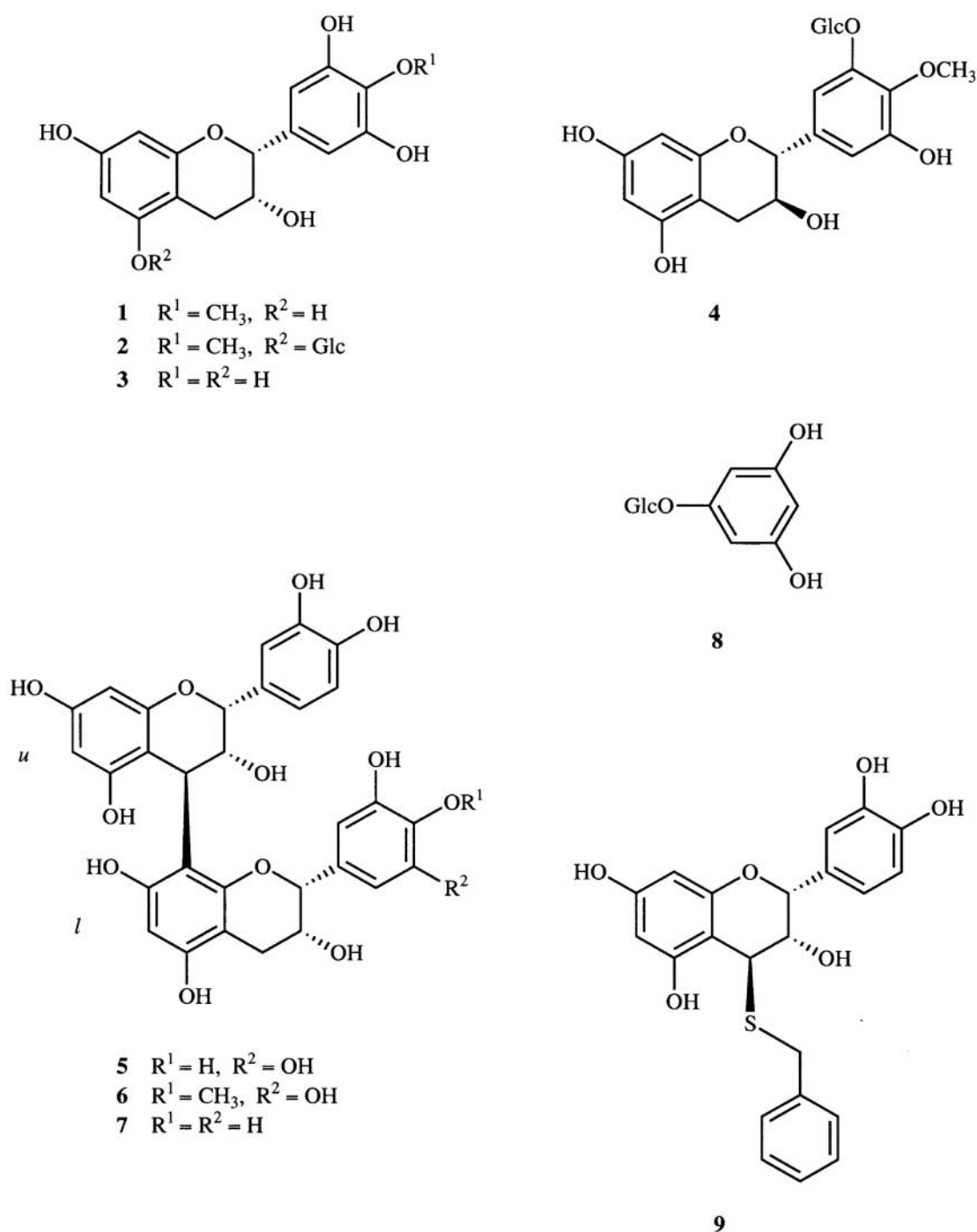


Fig. 1. Compounds 1–9.

cation of the three new compounds (**2**, **4** and **6**) are described below.

The atmospheric pressure ionization (API) mass spectrum (positive ion mode) of **2** showed a molecular ion peak at m/z 483 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ consistent with the molecular formula $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_{12}$. The ^1H NMR spectrum showed signals characteristic for a flavan-3-ol skeleton with a phloroglucinol pattern for ring A (two doublets at δ 6.07 and 6.29, $J = 2.2$ Hz) and a pyrogallol pat-

tern for ring B (two protons as a singlet at δ 6.60), a sugar moiety (anomeric proton signal at δ 4.87), and a methoxy group (singlet at δ 3.80, 3H). The singlet at δ 4.84 (H-2) (C-2 at δ 79.3) and the multiplet at δ 4.20 (H-3) (C-3 at δ 66.7) are characteristic for the 2,3-*cis* configuration of the flavan-3-ol unit (Shen, Chang & Ho, 1993; Markham & Ternai, 1976). The fragment ion peak at m/z 321 $[\text{M} + \text{H} - 162]^+$ suggested a hexose unit which was identified as glucose by comparing

Table 1
¹³C NMR spectral data of compounds **1–4** and **8**

Position	1 ^a	2 ^b	3 ^a	4 ^a	8 ^a
1					160.8
2	79.6	79.3	79.8	82.1	96.7
3	67.3	66.7	67.4	68.4	160.0
4	29.1	28.8	29.1	27.6	98.0
4a	100.0	102.2	100.0	100.6	
5	157.9	158.1	157.9	157.7	160.0
6	96.3	97.8	96.3	96.4	96.7
7	157.5	157.6	157.6	157.5	
8	95.8	96.5	95.8	95.5	
8a	157.1	156.6	157.2	156.5	
1'	135.9	136.1	131.4	136.7	
2'	107.1	107.0	106.9	107.4	
3'	151.3	150.9	146.6	152.0	
4'	136.5	136.1	133.5	137.9	
5'	151.3	150.9	146.6	151.6	
6'	107.1	107.0	106.9	110.0	
1''		102.0		102.6	102.0
2''		74.6		74.8	74.7
3''		78.6		77.0	77.9
4''		71.3		71.0	71.3
5''		79.0		77.9	77.9
6''		62.7		61.5	62.5
OCH ₃	60.7	60.6		62.3	

Measured at 125 MHz (in CD₃OD^a and CD₃COCD₃-D₂O [2:1]^b)

the ¹³C NMR spectral data of the sugar carbons with those reported for methyl *O*-glucosides (Agrawal & Bansal, 1989). These findings suggested that **2** was the glucoside of **1** (Drewes & Mashibaye, 1993) (Table 1). This was further shown by enzymatic hydrolysis of **2**, which gave compound **1**. Significant HMBC correlations between C-5 (δ 158.1) and the proton signals at δ 4.87 (H-1'') and 6.29 (H-6), linked the glucose unit to C-5, whereas C-7 was correlated with both H-6 and H-8. Correlations between the carbon signal at δ 136.1 (C-4') and the proton signals at δ 3.80 (3H, *s*) and 6.60 (2H, *s*), placed the methoxyl group at C-4'. The coupling constant ($J = 7.2$ Hz, H-1'') was indicative of a β -anomeric configuration of the glucose unit. Thus, compound **2** was determined to be (-)-4'-methylgallo catechin 5-*O*- β glucopyranoside.

Compound **4** was assigned the molecular formula C₂₂H₂₆O₁₂ on the basis of the API-mass spectrum (m/z at 483 [M + H]⁺). The doublet ($J = 7.5$ Hz) at δ 4.82 (H-2) and carbon signals at δ 68.4 (C-3) and 82.1 (C-2) (Table 1) suggested a flavan-3-ol skeleton with 2,3-*trans* configuration (Porter et al., 1982). Signals characteristic for a hexose moiety (anomeric proton at δ 4.68, fragment ion at m/z 321 [M + H - 162]⁺) and a methoxyl group (δ 3.84, 3H, *s*) were also observed in the ¹H NMR spectrum (see experimental). The hexose moiety was identified as glucose with the β -anomeric configuration ($J = 6.8$ Hz) (Agrawal & Bansal, 1989),

whereas enzymatic hydrolysis of **4** afforded (+)-4'-methylgallo catechin (Plazzo De Mello, Petereit & Nahrstedt, 1996). The downfield shift of C-3' (δ 152.0) and the upfield shift of C-2' (107.4), when compared with that of C-6' (110.0), suggested glycosylation at C-3' (Table 1). This was further confirmed by the HMBC correlations C-3' (δ 152.0) with H-1'' (δ 4.68) and H-2' (6.61). Long range correlations C-4' (δ 137.9) with the methoxy protons (δ 3.84) and H-2', connected the methoxy group to C-4'. From these data, compound **4** was determined to be (+)-4'-methylgallo catechin 3'-*O*- β -glucopyranoside.

The positive ion API-mass spectrum of **6** revealed a molecular ion peak at m/z 631 [M + Na]⁺ consistent with the molecular formula C₃₁H₂₈O₁₃. The NMR data of **6** showed features characteristic for flavan-ols of proanthocyanidin dimers similar to that of **5** (Table 2) (Nonaka et al., 1981; Porter et al., 1982; Hashimoto et al., 1989), and a methoxyl group (δ_{H} 3.76/ δ_{C} 60.7). A pair of singlets at δ 4.58 and 5.10 of H-2 and that of multiplets at δ 3.91 and 4.29 of H-3, were characteristic for two flavan-3-ol units with epicatechin stereochemistry (C2, C3: *cis*) (Nonaka et al., 1981; Nonaka, Kawahara & Nishioka, 1982). The broad singlets at δ 5.98 and 6.02 were assigned for H-8 (upper = *u*) and H-6_u, respectively, and the singlet at δ 5.91 was assigned for H-6 (lower = *l*). The singlet at δ 6.71 (2H) suggested a pyrogallol hydroxylation of

Table 2
¹³C NMR spectral data of compounds 5–7^a

Position	5	6	7
2(<i>u</i>)	77.0	76.9	77.1
3(<i>u</i>)	73.4	73.1	73.4
4(<i>u</i>)	37.1	36.9	37.1
4a(<i>u</i>)	100.5	100.4	100.5
5(<i>u</i>)	158.2	158.1	158.3
6(<i>u</i>)	97.3	96.5	96.3
7(<i>u</i>)	157.8	157.6	157.8
8(<i>u</i>)	96.1	96.1	96.2
8a(<i>u</i>)	156.3	156.3	156.4
1'(<i>u</i>)	131.1	132.2	132.0
2'(<i>u</i>)	115.2	115.1	115.2
3'(<i>u</i>)	145.5	145.4	145.6
4'(<i>u</i>)	145.8	145.7	145.8
5'(<i>u</i>)	115.9	115.8	115.9
6'(<i>u</i>)	119.2	119.2	119.4
2(<i>l</i>)	78.8	79.2	78.8
3(<i>l</i>)	66.7	66.6	66.9
4(<i>l</i>)	29.8	29.7	29.7
4a(<i>l</i>)	100.5	100.4	100.5
5(<i>l</i>)	158.2	158.1	158.3
6(<i>l</i>)	97.5	97.3	96.5
7(<i>l</i>)	157.8	157.6	157.8
8(<i>l</i>)	106.8	106.8	107.3
8a(<i>l</i>)	156.3	156.3	156.4
1'(<i>l</i>)	132.5	135.8	132.5
2'(<i>l</i>)	106.8	106.8	115.9
3'(<i>l</i>)	146.6	151.1	145.6
4'(<i>l</i>)	133.4	136.1	145.8
5'(<i>l</i>)	146.4	151.1	115.2
6'(<i>l</i>)	106.8	106.8	119.4
–OCH ₃		60.7	

^a Measured in CD₃OD at 100 MHz.

ring B, similar to that of **2**, while an ABX-like spin system at δ 6.66, 6.73 and 6.89 suggested a B-ring of catechol pattern. Twin carbon signals at δ 29.7 and 36.9 assigned for the lower (*l*) and upper (*u*) C–4, respectively. From these findings, **6** was determined to be composed of epicatechin, epigallocatechin units and a methoxy group. The position of a carbon–carbon linkage between the two flavan units was determined by comparison of the NMR data of **6** with those of **5**. A singlet at δ 4.65 ascribed for H–4*u* and a carbon shift at δ 76.9 (C–2*u*) are characteristic for the β -linkage of the two flavan units (Nonaka et al., 1982; Morimoto, Nonaka, Chen & Nishioka, 1988). The relatively upfield shifts of C–4*l* (at δ 29.7), C–8*l* (δ 106.8) and H–2*l* (δ 4.58) and the downfield shift of H–2*u* (δ 5.1) suggested a $4\beta \rightarrow 8$ linkage, as the most frequently encountered C–4/C–8 bonds in proanthocyanidins (Morimoto et al., 1988). On thiolytic degradation using benzylmercaptan and acetic acid, **6** produced **1** and compound **9** (Nonaka, Nishioka, Nagasawa & Oura, 1981). Accordingly, the structure of **6** was determined to be (–)-epicatechin ($4\beta \rightarrow 8$) (–)-4'-methylepigallocatechin.

3. Experimental

3.1. General

Optical rotations were taken with a JASCO DIP-360 automatic polarimeter. UV: MeOH (UV-2200, SHIMADZU, Japan). IR: KBr (FT/IR-230, JASCO, Japan). NMR spectra were measured with a VARIAN UNITY 500 (¹H–, 500 MHz; ¹³C–, 125 MHz) or a JEOL JNA-LA 400WB-FT (¹H–, 400 MHz; ¹³C–, 100 MHz) spectrometers. The atmospheric pressure ionization (API) mass spectra were measured with a PE SCIEX API III biomolecular mass analyzer. TLC: precoated silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ and RP-18 F₂₅₄S plates (0.25 mm, MERCK) developed with solvent system, A (benzene–ethyl formate–formic acid, 1:7:1), and B (acetonitrile–0.1% trifluoroacetic acid/H₂O, 3:7), respectively. Detection of the spots: by UV and anisaldehyde/H₂SO₄ and ferric chloride reagents. CC: Sephadex LH-20 (PHARMACIA, Sweden), Diaion HP-20 and MCI gel CHP-20P (MITSUBISHI, Tokyo, Japan) and Silica gel 60 (70–230 mesh, MERCK). MPLC: LiChroprep RP-18 (size A, MERCK).

3.2. Isolation of 1–8

The powdered stem-bark (2.8 kg) of *M. senegalensis*, collected in December 1995 from Arkowit district, East of Sudan, was extracted with MeOH (2*l*×2) at room temp. and then by reflux (1.5*l*×2). The MeOH was concentrated to 300 ml and shaken with hexane (600 ml). The MeOH layer was then evaporated under red. press., suspended in H₂O (500 ml) and shaken with an equal volume of EtOAc. The EtOAc layer was evaporated to dryness to give the EtOAc-soluble fraction (10.5 g) which was further fractionated by CC/Sephadex LH-20 (EtOH, H₂O to MeOH) to give 6 fractions. CC/silica gel (CHCl₃–MeOH, 8:2) of fr. 2 afforded **1** (1.87 g). CC/MCI gel (30% aq. MeOH) of fr. 3 followed by silica gel CC (eluted with CHCl₃–MeOH–H₂O, 6:4:1) gave **5** (80 mg) and **7** (29 mg). Similarly, fr. 4 afforded **3** (24 mg) and **6** (186 mg).

The aqueous layer was concentrated and passed through a column of Diaion HP-20. Elution was started with H₂O, 50% MeOH and then MeOH. CC of the 50% MeOH eluate (30 g) over Sephadex LH-20 (EtOH, H₂O to MeOH) gave five fractions, fr. I–V. Repeated CC of fr. II over Sephadex LH-20 (70% EtOH), silica gel (CHCl₃–MeOH–H₂O) afforded **8** (36 mg). Likewise, repeated CC of fr. III over Sephadex LH-20, silica gel and then MPLC (system B) gave **2** (35 mg) and **4** (18 mg). CC/Sephadex LH-20 of fr. IV gave additional amount of **1** (115 mg).

3.3. (–)-4'-Methylepigallocatechin 5-O-β-glucopyranoside (**2**)

Light brown amorphous powder, (R_f 0.53, in solvent system B). $[\alpha]_D -13.1^\circ$ (MeOH, c 0.15). UV λ_{max} nm (log ϵ): 210 (4.59), 230 *sh* (4.14), 270 (3.41). IR ν_{max} cm^{-1} : 3400 (OH), 1610 (arom. C=C). 1H -NMR (400 MHz, CD_3COCD_3/D_2O , [2:1]) δ : 2.94 (1H, *dd*, $J = 16.4, 4.6$ Hz, H-4*ax*, as in CD_3OD), 2.90 (1H, *dd*, $J = 16.4, 4.1$ Hz, H-4*eq*, as in CD_3OD), 3.34–3.84 (6H, H-2'' ~ H-6''), 3.80 (3H, *s*, OMe), 4.20 (1H, *m*, H-3), 4.84 (1H, *s*, H-2), 4.87 (1H, *d*, $J = 7.2$ Hz, H-1''), 6.07 (1H, *d*, $J = 2.2$ Hz, H-8), 6.29 (1H, *d*, $J = 2.2$ Hz, H-6), 6.60 (2H, *s*, H-2' and H-6'). ^{13}C -NMR (Table 1). API-MS (positive ion mode) m/z (rel. int.%): 505 $[M + Na]^+$ (49), 483 $[M + H]^+$ (17) and 321 $[M + H - Glc]^+$ (44).

3.4. Enzymatic hydrolysis of **2**

Glucoside **2** (5 mg) was dissolved in 50 mM NaOAc buffer (pH 5.0) and incubated with crude naringinase (Sigma Chemical Co.) at 40°C for 48 h. The ethyl acetate-soluble portion of the mixture was purified over Sephadex LH-20 (EtOH) to afford (–)-4'-methylepigallocatechin **1** (2 mg), $[\alpha]_D -23.2^\circ$ (EtOH, c 0.1). Lit. (Delle Monache et al., 1976): $[\alpha]_D -60.0^\circ$ (EtOH, c 1.0). The 1H -NMR spectral data were consistent with reported values (Drewes & Mashibaye, 1993).

3.5. (+)-4'-Methylgallocatechin 3'-O-β-glucopyranoside (**4**)

Yellowish amorphous powder, (R_f 0.71, in solvent system B). $[\alpha]_D -15.2^\circ$ (MeOH, c 0.15). UV λ_{max} nm (log ϵ): 210 (4.53), 230 *sh* (3.98), 280 (2.9). IR ν_{max} cm^{-1} : 3400 (OH), 1610 (arom. C=C). 1H -NMR (500 MHz, CD_3OD) δ : 2.51 (1H, *dd*, $J = 16.4, 7.2$ Hz, H-4*ax*), 2.72 (1H, *dd*, $J = 16.4, 5.3$ Hz, H-4*eq*), 3.23 (1H, *m*, H-5''), 3.42 (1H, *m*, H-4''), 3.44 (1H, *m*, H-3''), 3.74 (1H, *m*, H-2''), 3.70–3.74 (2H, *m*, H-6''), 3.84 (3H, *s*, OMe), 3.99 (1H, *m*, H-3), 4.68 (1H, *d*, $J = 6.8$ Hz, H-1''), 4.82 (1H, *d*, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H-2), 5.91 (1H, *d*, $J = 2.2$ Hz, H-8), 5.94 (1H, *d*, $J = 2.2$ Hz, H-6), 6.61 (1H, *d*, $J = 1.9$ Hz, H-2'), 6.71 (1H, *d*, $J = 1.9$ Hz, H-6'). ^{13}C -NMR (Table 1). API-MS (positive ion mode) m/z (rel. int.%): 505 $[M + Na]^+$ (73), 483 $[M + H]^+$ (12) and 321 $[M + H - Glc]^+$ (10).

3.6. Enzymatic hydrolysis of **4**

Glucoside **4** (5 mg) was treated as for **2** to afford (+)-4'-methylgallocatechin (**2** mg), $[\alpha]_D + 10^\circ$ (50% Me_2CO , c 0.12). Lit. (Plazzo De Mello et al., 1996): $[\alpha]_D + 28^\circ$ (50% Me_2CO), c 0.2). The 1H -NMR spec-

tral data were consistent with reported values (Plazzo De Mello et al., 1996).

3.7. (–)-Epicatechin (4β → 8) (–)-4'-methylepigallocatechin (**6**)

Light brown amorphous powder, (R_f 0.29, in solvent system A). $[\alpha]_D + 22.7^\circ$ (MeOH, c 0.72). UV λ_{max} nm (log ϵ): 220 (4.3), 280 (3.39). IR ν_{max} cm^{-1} : 3360 (OH), 1610 (arom. C=C). 1H -NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ : 2.82 (2H, *m*, H-4*l*), 3.76 (3H, *s*, –OCH₃), 3.91 (1H, *br s*, H-3*u*), 4.29 (1H, *br s*, H-3*l*), 4.58 (1H, *br s*, H-2*l*), 4.65 (1H, *br s*, H-4*u*), 5.10 (1H, *br s*, H-2*u*), 5.91 (1H, *br s*, H-6*l*), 5.98 (1H, *br s*, H-6*u*), 6.02 (1H, *br s*, H-8*u*), 6.66 (1H, *br s*, H-6'*u*), 6.71 (2H, *s*, H-2'*l*, H-6'*l*), 6.73 (1H, *br s*, H-5'*u*), 6.89 (1H, *br s*, H-2'*u*). ^{13}C -NMR (Table 2). API-MS (positive ion mode) m/z (rel. int.%): 631 $[M + Na]^+$ (10) and 609 $[M + 1]^+$ (27). [*u* = upper; *l* = lower]

3.8. Thiolysis of compound **6**

A mixture of **6** (24 mg) in ethanol (3 ml), benzylmercaptan (0.5 ml) and acetic acid (0.5 ml) was stirred under argon at 50–60°C for 48 h. The mixture was evaporated under red. pres. and chromatographed over Sephadex LH-20 (benzene–EtOH) to afford **1** and (–)-epicatechin-4β-benzylthioether **9**, $[\alpha]_D -28.9^\circ$ (Me_2CO , c 0.15). Lit. (Nonaka et al., 1981): $[\alpha]_D -28^\circ$ (Me_2CO , c 1.0). API-MS (positive ion mode) m/z (rel. int.%): 413 $[M + 1]^+$ (64). The 1H NMR spectral data were in agreement with lit. values (Nonaka et al., 1981).

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