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assay was carried out $\times 5$. While some of the dishes were exposed to diffuse light at 25°, the rest were covered with black paper and kept in darkness at the same temp. Subsequent expts were carried out with solns of concn 1, and 0.1 ppm. Some expts were carried out with a suspension of 2.5 mg psoralen in 100 ml. To observe the effect of light, the test dishes were exposed to 323, 460 and 638 lx respectively at 25°.

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STILBENE GLUCOSIDES IN THE BARK OF PICEA SITCHENSIS

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Abstract—The fresh bark of *Picea sitchensis* contains astringin as the major stilbene; isorhapontin and piceid are present in minor amounts. The aglycones astringenin, isorhaponhgenin and resveratrol are absent in samples of fresh bark. Prenylation reactions on 5,3',4'-tri-O-methylastringenin are described.

INTRODUCTION

The bark from *Picea sitchensis*, a waste product of the pulp and paper industry, was examined for a quantitative assessment of the compounds of economic importance. Our initial interest was in the occurrence of stilbenes, a group of phenolic compounds considered [1] as the possible inhibitors of some forest pathogens (e.g. *Fomes annosus*), the control of which plays an important role in the economic cultivation of spruce forests.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The dried fresh spruce bark yielded 6% astringin; other than UV spectra [2, 3] and GLC behaviour [4] no physical data for the unstable and easily oxidized 3,5,3',4'-tetrahydroxystilbene $3-\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside is recorded. The structure of the isolate from *P. sitchensis* was confirmed by acidic hydrolysis of the methylated derivative *trans*-5,3',4'-tri-O-methylastringin. The aglycone from the hydrolysate was ethylated and subsequently oxidized to give an equimolar mixture of 5-ethoxy-3-methoxybenzoic and 3,4-dimethoxybenzoic acids. The name astringin was originally proposed by Hillis to describe an amorphous mixture (mp 75–125°) isolated from *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* [5]. The minor phenolic components of the bark were isolated using $Ph(OAc)_2$ treatment. Isorhapontin was found to be present in 0.4% yield and was characterized as its hexaacetate [6]. Also obtained was the stilbene glucoside, piceid (0.08% yield) which had not previously been found in *P. sitchensis*. The structure of piceid was confirmed by isolation of resveratrol-3,4'-dimethyl ether, on hydrolysis of the methylated glucoside.

(+)-Catechin (0.08%) and situaterol (0.01%) were also identified in the bark extract.

Chromatograms of Sitka spruce bark extracts were reported [2, 7] as showing 15 fluorescent spots, which, though the compounds were not isolated, were inferred from R_f values to be *trans*- and *cis*-stilbene glucosides and their corresponding aglycones. In the fresh bark extracts of *P. sitchensis* analysed by us, the aglycones were absent.

The presence of stilbenes and their glucosides has also been observed in the barks of *P. abies* L (Karst) [8-10]; *P. glauca* (Moench) Voss [2, 10]; *P. marianna* (Mill) B.S.P., *P. rubens*, *P. engelmannii* (Parry) [2, 11]; *P. obo*vata (Ledebour) [12].

The instability of astringin in air prohibited its use in the standard antifungal and antibacterial tests, and the preparation of stable derivatives of the glucoside and its aglycone was undertaken.

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Dihydroastringin was prepared by direct hydrogenation of astringin and was characterized as its heptaacetate. A series of prenylated astringenin OMe derivatives resulted from the reaction of 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxystilbene with 2-methyl-3-buten-2-ol in BF₃-Et₂O. 3-Hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxy-2-prenylstilbene (1) and 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxy-6-prenylstilbene were separated and characterized by methylation when they gave identical products. Oxidative cyclization of compound (1) with DDQ afforded the chromene (2). The third isomer from the prenylation reaction of an impure sample of 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxy-4-prenylstilbene was contaminated with the 2-prenyl isomer. The first natural prenylated stilbene was reported recently [13] as occurring in *Derris rariflora*.



EXPERIMENTAL

Mp's were determined using a Kofler hot stage apparatus. IR spectra were recorded from KBr discs, UV spectra were determined in MeOH and 60 MHz PMR spectra from solns in CDCl₃ (TMS as internal reference). Only significant bands in IR and NMR spectra are quoted. During isolation processes, the appropriate combination of fractions were determined from TLC. Solvent systems for development were: (A) CHCl₃-MeOH-H₂O, (7:3:1) (lower layer); (B) CHCl₃-MeOH, (i) (9:1), (ii) (4:1); (C) C₆H₆-Me₂CO (9:1); (D) *n*-hexane-Me₂CO (4:1); (E) petrol (bp 40-60°)-Me₂CO (9:1).

Extraction of bark. Milled fresh bark of P. sitchensis (Bong.) Carr (1.5 kg) was extracted successively with *n*-hexane (48 hr), C₆H₆ (48 hr), Et₂O (72 hr) and EtOAc (48 hr). Evaporation of solvents afforded the extracts *n*-hexane (58 g, residue prior to evap. 1.2 g), C₆H₆ (6.86 g) Et₂O (10.7 g), residue prior to evaporation (11.5 g) and EtOAc (186 g). An aliquot (1 g) of the EtOAc fraction in Me₂CO was subjected to column chromatography on Sephadex LH-20 (100 g) with the eluants Me₂CO (200 ml) and Me₂CO-MeOH (4:1). The fractions showing a single spot (R_f 0.12 solvent A) were collected and crystallized from H₂O when astringin separated as needles mp 231-232° (decomp.); $[\alpha]_{16}^{24} - 65.23°$ (c, 0.21 MeOH). (Found: C, 59.16; H, 5.47. C₂₀H₂₂O₉ requires: C, 59.11; H, 5.46.) $\lambda_{max}(nm)$ (log ϵ) 327 (4.43) 221 (4.37) 305 (4.33) influx. Astringin heptaacetate mp 152-153° (needles from MeOH) (lit, [13] mp 100-115°; lit, [9] mp 148-149°); $[\alpha]_{16}^{23}| - 15.56°$ (c 2, CHCl₃) $\lambda_{max}(nm)$ (log ϵ) 310 (4.5) 299 (4.5) 230 (4.26) 208 (4.32); PMR: δ 2.08 (12 H, s, OAc of sugar), 2.33 (9 H, s, OAc).

5,3',4'-Tri-O-methylastringin. Astringin (500 mg) was methylated (CH₂N₂). The tri-O-methyl ether was purified by TLC (solvent B) and afforded needles (330 mg) (from MeOH) mp 161-162°; $[\alpha]_{D^{4*}}^{24*}$ - 55° (c 0.2, MeOH). (Found: C, 59.6; H, 6.29. C₂₃H₂₈O₉ H₂O requires: C, 59.22, H, 6.48%) The tetraacetate of the tri-O-methyl ether was an oil PMR: δ 2.08, 2.10 (12 H, s, OAc of sugar) 3.87, 3.93, 3.97 (9 H, s, OMe) ≈ 4.3 , 5.0 (m, sugar protons), 6.56 (1 H, t, J 3 Hz, 4-H) 6.84 (2 H, d, J 3 Hz 2, 6-H) 7.0-7.8 (m, 2', 5', 6', α and β -H).

Hydrolysis of tri-O-methylastringin. The tri-O-methyl ether (218 mg) in MeOH (10 ml) containing 1% HCl was refluxed for 5 hr. Hydrolysate was diluted with H₂O and extracted with Et₂O. Et₂O extractive (128 mg) was chromatographed on TLC (solvent C). Recrystallization of the major band from C₆H₆– hexane (1:1) gave 5,3',4'-trimethoxy-3-hydroxystilbene as needles (84%), mp 124°. (Found: C, 71.59; H, 6.24. C₁₇H₁₈O₄ requires: C, 71.31, H, 6.34%) $\lambda_{max}(nm)$ (log ϵ) 323 (4.51) 305 (4.41) sh. PMR: δ 3.84, 3.92, 3.97 (9 H, 3 × s, OMe), 5.91 (1 H, br s, OH exchanges D₂O), 6.45 (1 H, t, J 3 Hz 4-H) 6.71 (2 H, d, J 3 Hz, 2, 6-H) 7.0–7.2 (5 H, m, 2', 5', 6'-, α - and β -H). The monoacetate was an oil. PMR: δ 2.33 (3 H, s, OAc). The aq. layer from Et₂O extraction was neutralized on amberlite IR 45. The residue, after evaporation of solvent was chromatographed on cellulose and developed 2× with *n*-BuOH-C₅H₅N-H₂O (3:2:1). The R_f of the single spot corresponded to D-glucose. 5,3',4'-trimethoxy-3-hydroxystilbene (27 mg) was methylated (CH₂N₂-Et₂O). The residue, on evaporation, was purified by TLC (solvent C). Crystallization from MeOH gave needles of 3,5,3',4'-tetramethoxystilbene mp 66–67° (lit. [5] 64–66°), λ_{max} nm (log ϵ) 323 (4.37) 302 influx. (4.31). PMR: δ 3.88 (6 H, s, OMe) 3.96, 4.00 (6 H, 2 × s, OMe) 6.6 (1 H, t, J 3 Hz 4-H) 6.78 (2 H, d, 3 Hz 2, 6-H).

5-Ethoxy-3,3',4'-trimethoxystilbene. Ethylation of the tri-Omethylaglycone (27 mg), (C_2H_3I (0.5 g)- K_2CO_3 (1 g)- Me_2CO (20 ml)) and subsequent purification by TLC (solvent C), gave a fraction which crystallized from aq. MeOH as needles mp 58-59°. (Found: C, 72.52; H, 7.14. $C_{19}H_{22}O_4$ requires: C, 72.59; H, 7.05%.) PMR: δ 1.45 (3 H, t, J 8 Hz OCH₂CH₃) 3.79, 3.95, 4.0 (9 H, 3 × s, OMe) 4.13 (2 H, q, J 8 Hz, OCH₂Me) 6.49 (1 H, t, J 3 Hz, 4-H) 6.75 (2 H, d, J 3 Hz, 2, 6-H).

Oxidation of 5-ethoxy-3,3',4'-trimethoxystilbene. Stilbene (653 mg) in HOAc (30 ml) was reacted with CrO₃ (0.9 g) in HOAc (50%) at 50°. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 hr at 50-60°. Et₂O extract of the diluted reaction mixture was evaporated and residue methylated (CH₂N₂). Separation (solvent D) gave 2 fractions. Fraction (R_f 0.38) (60 mg) was hydrolyzed (MeOH-KOH, 1%) to yield 3,4-dimethoxybenzoic acid as needles (from C₆H₆ *n*-hexane) mp and mmp 179-180°. Fraction (R_f 0.63) (10 mg) was identical with an authentic sample of methyl 5-ethoxy-3-methoxybenzoate.

3-Ethoxy-5-methoxy benzoic acid. Me 3-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzoate was ethylated (EtI- $K_2CO_3Me_2CO$). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 5 hr, cooled, filtered and evaporated. Residue was refluxed with MeOH-KOH for 1 hr and the acid crystallized (dil MeOH) as needles mp 142°. (Found: C, 61.5; H, 5.87. C₁₀H₁₂O₄ requires: C, 61.2; H, 6.1%)

Isolation of minor constituents from the EtOAc extract. An aliquot of the EtOAc extract was treated with Pb(OAc)₂ in MeOH. The ppt. was collected, suspended in MeOH through which H₂S was bubbled, and the PbS discarded. Residue from the filtrate on crystillization from H₂O yielded astringin (3.2 g). The aq. mother liquor was extracted with n-BuOH. Residue (2.14 g) from evaporation of this extract, was chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 and eluted with Me₂CO-MeOH (4:1). The fractions were analysed by TLC (Solvent A). Fraction 1 (0.4 g) was subjected to TLC (Solvent B (ii)) and afforded (+)-catechin (62 mg; 0.08% dry bark basis) crystallized from H₂O as needles mp 172–173°. $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{22} + 3.0^{\circ}$ (c, 0.2 MeOH) (identical mp, NMR, UV (+)-catechin). Filtrates from Pb(OAc)₂ treatments were subjected to H₂S gas, the PbS discarded and the solvents evaporated. An aliquot (1 g) of the residue (1.63 g) was chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 (100 g) and eluted with Me₂CO and Me₂CO-MeOH (4:1). Seven fractions (i-vii) were collected, of which fractions (ii-iv) yielded intractable oils. Fraction (i) (20 mg) plates from MeOH mp 136–137° (identical mp TLC, GLC β -sitosterol). Fraction (v) (1.03 g) was again treated with Pb(OAc)₂. Residue from the aq. filtrate was subjected to TLC (Solvent B (ii)). The band $(R_f 0.3)$ was eluted with Me₂CO and evaporation of solvent gave a pale yellow powder (0.35 g). Acetylation (C₅H₅N-Ac₂O) afforded isorhapontin hexaacetate which was crystallized (MeOH) as needles (0.41 g) mp and mmp 160-161° (lit. [7] mp 162°). Methylation (CH₂N₂-Et₂O) of an aliquot of the yellow powder and purification by TLC (Solvent B (i)) afforded isorhapontin Me ether mp 150°, identical with 5,3',4'-tri-O-methylastringin. Fraction (vi) (1.13 g) was chromatographed on Sephadex LH 20 (100 g) and eluted with $Me_2CO-MeOH$ (4:1). One fraction R_f 0.25 (Solvent B (ii)) afforded a solid (0.13 g). A similar solid was separated from fraction (vii). These combined solids crystallized from H₂O

as pale yellow needles (0.14 g), mp 130–140°; resolidified at 170° and remelted at 228–230°. $[\alpha]_{1}^{19} - 65.26°$ (c, 0.19 MeOH) $\lambda_{max}(nm)$ (log ϵ) 320 (4.44) 306 (4.45). Acetylation (C₃H₃N–Ac₂O) afforded piceid hexaacetate, mp 157–158° (needles from MeOH) (lit. [14] mp 157°). PMR: δ 2.08, 2.09, 2.11 (12 H, s, OAc on sugar moiety), 2.34 (6 H, s, OAc) 6.75 (1 H, t, J 2 Hz 4-H) 7.04, 7.09 (4 H, 2-, 6- α - and β -H) afforded resveratrol as needles from MeOH–H₂O mp 251–252° decomp. (lit. [14] 263°); triacetate mp 112° (lit. [14] mp 112°).

Dihydroastringin. Hydrogenation of astringin (500 mg) with Pd-C catalyst (500 mg; 5%) in MeOH (30 ml) afforded an oil which was chromatographed (Si gel; 50 g) using eluent (A). The fraction (R_r 0.29) was collected and evaporated to afford a syrup. PMR: δ (TFA.) 2.96 (4 H, s, -CH₂-CH₂-) 3.79 (1 H, s, OH). Acetylation (C_3H_3N -Ac₂O) gave a heptaacetate which crystallized from MeOH as needles mp 123-124°; $[\alpha]_D^{2^2} - 3.7^\circ$ (c, 0.19, CHCl₃). (Found: C, 57.9; H, 5.49. C₃₄H₃₈O₁₆ requires: C, 58.11; H, 5.45%.) PMR: δ 2.07 (12 H, s, Ac sugar moiety) 2.30 (9 H, s, OAc) 2.93 (4 H, s, CH₂-CH₂); $\lambda_{max}(\log \epsilon)$ 267 (3.18) 271 (3.16) sh.

Prenylation of 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxystilbene. To a mixture of 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxystilbene (1.43 g; 5×10^{-3} mol) in dry dioxane (25 ml) and BF₃-Et₂O (1.07 g); 7.5×10^{-3} mol) was added with stirring, a soln of 2-methyl-3-buten-3-ol (0.65 g; 7.5×10^{-3} mol) in dry dioxane (5 ml). The reaction mixture was allowed to stand for 12 hr, diluted and extracted with Et₂O. The residue, on evaporation of the Et₂O, showed on TLC 6 components (Rr 0.82, 0.79, 0.66, 0.58, 0.51 and 0.47; Solvent C; R_f starting material 0.47). Column chromatography of the residue (eluent C₆H₆-Me₂CO (49:1) yielded 4 fractions. Fraction (i) (946 mg) was a complex mixture of 4 components. Fraction (ii) (165 mg) crystallized from C₆H₆-petrol (60-80°) to afford 3-hydroxy-5,3',4', trimethoxy-2prenylstilbene as needles (76 mg) mp 142-144°, (Found: C, 74.59; H, 7.23. C₂₂H₂₆O₄ requires: C, 74.55; H, 7.39%.) λmax 3.21 nm (log 4.43). PMR: δ 1.77, 1.87 (6 H, br s, gem Me) 3.51 (2 H, br d, J 8 Hz, Ar-CH2), 3.85, 3.96, 3.99 (9 H, s, OMe) 5.36 (1 H, m, CH=C(Me)₂) 6.46, 6.84 (2 H, q, J 3 Hz, 4-H, 6-H) 7.0-7.5 (5 H, m, 2', 5', 6'-H, a- and B-H). Fraction (iii) (184 mg) crystallized from CHCl₃- petrol (60-80°) to give 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxy-6-prenylstilbene as needles (90 mg) mp 170-171°. (Found: C, 74.34; H, 7.28. $C_{22}H_{24}O_4$ requires: C, 74.55; H, 7.39%) λ_{max} 320 nm log ϵ 4.38. PMR: δ 1.72, 1.85 (6 H, s, gem Me) 3.49 (2 H, br d J Hz Ar CH₂-) 3.84, 3.96, 3.98 (9 H, s, OMe), 5.36 (1 H, m, -CH=C(Me)2) 6.47, 6.78 (2 H, q J 2 Hz 2- and 4-H) 7.0 ~ 7.4 (5 H, m, 2', 5', 6'-H and α -, β -H). Fraction (iv) (250 mg) was crystallized from CHCl₁petrol (60-80°) and afforded needles of 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxystilbene (79 mg) mp 122-123°.

Methylation of fractions (ii) (50 mg) and (iii) (50 mg). The product from the individual methylations (MeI (500 mg)-K₂CO₃ (500 mg)-Me₂CO (10 ml) afforded 3,5,3',4'-tetramethoxy-2-prenylstilbene as an oil (55 mg)). PMR: δ 3.87, 3.89, 3.95, 3.99 (12 H, s, OMe).

5,3',4'-Trimethoxy-2",2"-dimethylpyrano (5", 6"; 2, 3) stilbene (2). To 3-hydroxy-5,3',4'-trimethoxy-2-prenylstilbene (124 mg) in dry C₆H₆ (12 ml) was added a soln of DDQ (80 mg) in C₆H₆ (8 ml) and the mixture was refluxed for 2 hr. Filtration and evaporation of the filtrate gave a residue which distilled (bp 198-200°/0.5 mm Hg) as a pale yellow oil. Purification by TLC (Solvent E) afforded two spots on TLC (R_f 0.28 and 0.44). Crystallization from petrol (60-80°) of the residue from band R_f 0.28 gave 5,3',4'-trimethoxy-2",2"-dimethylpyrano (5", 6"; 2,3) stilbene as needles (61% yield) mp 128-129°. (Found: C, 75.33; H, 6.84. C₂₂H₂₄O₄ requires: C, 74.97; H, 6.86%.) λ_{max} (CHCl₃) nm (log ϵ) 330 (4.39) 293 (4.32) PMR: δ 1.48 (6 H, s, Me) 3.87, 3.95, 3.99 (9 H, s, OMe) 5.65 (1 H, d, J 10 Hz, 3"-H) 6.45, 6.77 (2 H, q, J 2.5 Hz 2-, 4-H) 6.78 (1 H, d, J 10 Hz 4"-H) 7 ~ 7.5 (5 H, m, 2', 5', 6'- and α , β -H).

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