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Journal of Asian Natural Products Research

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ganp20

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Wen-Hua Dong $^{a\,b}$, Wen-Li Mei $^{a\,b}$, You-Xing Zhao $^{a\,b}$, Yan-Bo Zeng $^{a\,b}$, Hui Wang $^{a\,b}$ & Hao-Fu Dai $^{a\,b}$

^a Key Laboratory of Tropical Crop Biotechnology, Ministry of Agriculture, Institute of Tropical Bioscience and Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, Haikou, 571101, China

^b Hainan Key Laboratory for Research and Development of Natural Product from Li Folk Medicine, Haikou, 571101, China Published online: 25 May 2011.

To cite this article: Wen-Hua Dong , Wen-Li Mei , You-Xing Zhao , Yan-Bo Zeng , Hui Wang & Hao-Fu Dai (2011) A new drimane sesquiterpenoid glycoside from the seeds of Antiaris toxicaria , Journal of Asian Natural Products Research, 13:06, 561-565, DOI: <u>10.1080/10286020.2011.573479</u>

To link to this article: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286020.2011.573479</u>

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A new drimane sesquiterpenoid glycoside from the seeds of Antiaris toxicaria

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^aKey Laboratory of Tropical Crop Biotechnology, Ministry of Agriculture, Institute of Tropical Bioscience and Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, Haikou 571101, China; ^bHainan Key Laboratory for Research and Development of Natural Product from Li Folk Medicine, Haikou 571101, China

(Received 26 December 2010; final version received 16 March 2011)

A new drimane sesquiterpenoid glycoside, named 7-drimen- 3β ,11-diol 3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside, was isolated from the 95% EtOH extract of the seeds of *Antiaris toxicaria* (Pers.) Lesch. The chemical structure was completely elucidated using a combination of 1D and 2D NMR techniques (COSY, HMQC, HMBC, and ROESY) and HR-ESI-MS analysis. The compound showed inhibitory activities toward methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), chronic myelogenous leukemia (K562), and human hepatoma (SMMC-7721) cell lines.

Keywords: *Antiaris toxicaria*; drimane sesquiterpenoid glycoside; 7-drimen-3β,11diol 3-*O*-β-D-glucopyranoside; anti-MRSA; cytotoxicity

1. Introduction

Antiaris toxicaria (Pers.) Lesch. (Moraceae) is well known as 'upas tree' because it contains a complex mixture of cardenolide glycosides used as arrow and dart poisons prepared throughout southeastern Asia, from Burma to Indonesia [1-3]. The genus Antiaris (Moraceae) comprises four species, of which only A. toxicaria is distributed in China, mainly in Guangxi, Guangdong, Yunnan, and Hainan provinces [4]. Earlier studies of the toxicity of this plant in Indonesia, Malaysian, or China led to the isolation of cardenolides [5-11], flavonoids [12-14], and lignans [15]. Phytochemistry study of the seeds of A. toxicaria (Java, Indonesia) was only reported by Muhlradt et al. [9], and the chemical constituents isolated from the seeds are quite different from the latex of this plant. In our study of the seeds of *A. toxicaria* collected from Lingshui County of Hainan Province for the first time, a new drimane sesquiterpenoid glycoside (1) was isolated from the 95% EtOH extract of the seeds. Drimane sesquiterpenes showed attractive bioactive properties including antibacterial, antifungal, antifeedant, plant growth regulatory, cytotoxic, phytotoxic, piscicidal, and molluscicidal effects [16]. In this paper, we described the structural elucidation of compound 1 and its anti-methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and cytotoxic activities (Figure 1).

2. Results and discussion

Compound 1 was obtained as a colorless oil and had a molecular formula $C_{21}H_{36}O_7$ based on its HR-ESI-MS at m/z 400.2459,

*Corresponding author. Email: hfdai2001@yahoo.com.cn

ISSN 1028-6020 print/ISSN 1477-2213 online © 2011 Taylor & Francis DOI: 10.1080/10286020.2011.573479 http://www.informaworld.com



Figure 1. The structure of compound 1.

which was supported by ¹³C NMR and distortionless enhancement by polarization transfer (DEPT) spectral data (Table 1). The IR spectrum showed characteristic absorption for hydroxyl groups (3511 cm^{-1}) and for double bonds (1652) cm⁻¹). The ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectra (Table 1) showed 21 carbon resonances, including four methyl, five methylene (two oxygenated), nine methine, and three quaternary carbons. The presence of a glucose moiety was determined by six characteristic carbon signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 106.7, 78.3, 77.7, 75.7, 71.8, and 62.9 [17], which

was further confirmed by its acid hydrolysis. The other 15 carbon signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 135.0 (s), 123.8 (d), 90.8 (d), 61.3 (t), 58.3 (d), 51.4 (d), 40.1 (s), 38.9 (t), 36.6 (s), 28.6 (q), 27.3 (t), 24.3 (t), 22.2 (q), 16.7 (q), and 15.0 (q) in 1 indicated an aglycone of sesquiterpene, and these ¹³C NMR spectral data were similar to a known drimane sesquiterpene, 3β-hydroxydrimenol [18,19]. The obvious differences were the significant down-fielded shift of C-3 from δ_C 79.6 to 90.8, as well as the presence of six sugar carbons in compound 1. The key HMBC correlation from the anomeric proton signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.30 (H-1[']) to C-3 confirmed that the sugar moiety was linked to the drimane sesquiterpenoid aglycone at C-3 (Figure 2). The anomeric configuration of the glucose was determined as β on the basis of the coupling constant J = 7.8 Hz. The relative configuration of aglycone was same to the 3βhydroxydrimenol and confirmed by the

Table 1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectral data of compound **1** (in CD₃OD, δ).

No.	$\delta_{ m H}$	δ_{C}	No.	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{ m C}$
1	2.02 (1H, m),	38.9 (t)	12	1.72 (3H, s)	22.2 (q)
	1.22 (1H, m)				
2	1.99 (1H, m),	27.3 (t)	13	1.02 (3H, s)	28.6 (q)
	1.98 (1H, m)				
3	3.18 (1H, dd,	90.8 (d)	14	0.90 (3H, s)	16.7 (q)
	$J = 9.0, 2.8 \mathrm{Hz}$				
4		40.1 (s)	15	0.79 (3H, s)	15.0 (q)
5	1.19 (1H, m)	51.4 (d)	1'	4.30 (1H, d,	106.7 (d)
				I = 7.8 Hz	
6	1.95 (1H, m).	24.3(t)	2'	3.17 (1H.	75.7 (d)
	1.94 (1H, m)	= (t)	-	overlapped)	(u)
7	5.42 (1H m)	123 8 (d)	31	3 32 (1H	78 3 (d)
,	5.12 (111, 11)	125.0 (u)	5	overlapped)	70.5 (u)
8		135.0(s)	Δ'	3 27 (1H	71.8(d)
0		155.0 (3)	-	overlapped)	/1.0 (u)
0	1.78(1H m)	58 3 (d)	5/	3.25 (1H m)	77.7 (d)
10	1.76 (111, 111)	36.5(u)	61	3.25(111, 11)	62.0(t)
10		50.0 (8)	0	J = 110, 40 Hz	02.9 (l)
				J = 11.9, 4.9 mz	
				5.82 (IH, d,	
1.1	2 77 (111 11	(12)		J = 11.9 Hz	
11	3.// (IH, dd,	61.3 (t)			
	J = 11.0, 3.0 Hz				
	3.53 (1H, dd,				
	J = 11.0, 6.4 Hz)				



Figure 2. Key HMBC and ROESY correlations of compound **1**.

ROESY correlations (Figure 2). Based on the above evidence, compound **1** was determined as 7-drimen- 3β ,11-diol 3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside.

The antibacterial tests showed that compound **1** had inhibitory effects on MRSA, with a diameter of the inhibition zone of 10.0 mm. The diameter of the inhibition zone of the positive control, kanamycin sulfate, was 30.0 mm. The cytotoxicity of compound **1** was evaluated *in vitro* by the 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) method [20]. Compound **1** showed cytotoxicity against the K562 and SMMC-7721 cell lines with the IC₅₀ values of 6.60 and 7.20 µg/ml, respectively, and mitomycin C was used as a positive control (Table 2).

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotation was recorded using a Rudolph Autopol III polarimeter (Rudolph Research Analytical, New Jersey, USA). The UV spectrum was measured with a Shimadzu UV-2550 spectrometer. The IR

Table 2. In vitro cytotoxicities of compound 1 (IC₅₀ values, μ g/ml).

Compound	K562	SMMC-7721	
1	6.60	7.20	
Mitomycin C ^a	7.10	2.20	

Note: ^aPositive control.

spectrum was obtained using a Nicolet 380 FT-IR instrument from KBr pellets. The NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer, using TMS as an internal standard. The HR-ESI-MS spectrum was measured with an API QSTAR Pulsar mass spectrometer. Column chromatography (CC) was performed with silica gel (Marine Chemical Industry Factory, Qingdao, China) and Sephadex LH-20 (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was preformed with silica gel GF254 (Marine Chemical Industry Factory, Qingdao, China).

3.2 Plant material

Seeds of *A. toxicaria* (Pers.) Lesch were collected from Lingshui County of Hainan Province, China, in May 2009, and the plant was identified by Professor Zhu-Nian Wang. A voucher specimen (No. AN200905) has been deposited in the Institute of Tropical Bioscience and Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The dried and crushed seeds (25.9 kg) of A. toxicaria were extracted three times with 95% of EtOH (50 L \times 3) at room temperature. The combined extracts concentrated under reduced were pressure and suspended in H₂O and then partitioned successively with petroleum ether, EtOAc, and n-BuOH. The EtOAc fraction (39.5 g), which showed inhibitory activity against MRSA and cytotoxic activities, was subjected to CC on silica gel with a gradient solvent system of CHCl₃-MeOH (1:0-0:1, v/v) to afford 10 fractions. Fraction 8 (4.42 g) was submitted to repeated CC on silica gel CC eluting with CHCl₃-MeOH (20:1 v/v) and Sephadex LH-20 (CHCl3-MeOH 1:1 v/v) and finally yielded compound 1 (7.6 mg).

3.3.1 7-Drimen-3 β ,11-diol 3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside (1)

Colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{26} 22.2$ (c = 0.68, MeOH); UV (MeOH): λ_{max} (log ε) 192 (5.00), 205 (2.82) nm; IR ν_{max}^{KBr} (cm⁻¹): 3512 (OH), 3044, 2978, 1652 (C=C), 1418, 1080, 728 cm⁻¹; for ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectral data, see Table 1. HR-ESI-MS: m/z 400.2459 [M]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₃₆O₇, 400.2461).

3.4 Acid hydrolysis

Compound 1 (5 mg) was dissolved in MeOH (2.0 ml) and 5% of H_2SO_4 solution (2.0 ml) and hydrolyzed under reflux at 80°C for 3 h. The mixture was diluted twofold with distilled water and partitioned between CHCl₃ and H_2O . The aqueous layer was neutralized with aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (1.0 M) and evaporated to afford the residue. The sugar was determined as D-glucose by TLC (CHCl₃– MeOH–H₂O 7:3:0.5, $R_f = 0.45$) with an authentic sample and optical rotation dispersion ([α]_D² + 46.6 (c = 0.2, MeOH)).

3.5 Antimicrobial activity

The compound was tested for in vitro antimicrobial activity against MRSA (obtained from Hainan Institute of Drug Control, Haikou, China) by the filter-paper disk agar diffusion method [21]. The strains were cultured using nutrient agar (NA) in plates (90 mm in diameter). Fifty microliters of compound 1 (10 mg/ml) were impregnated on sterile filter paper disks (6 mm in diameter) and then applied aseptically to the surface of the agar plates. Ten microliters of kanamycin sulfate (0.08 mg/ml) were used as positive control. As an expression of the antimicrobial activities, the diameters of the inhibition zones including the 6 mm disk in diameter were measured after 24 h of incubation at room temperature. Experiments were carried out in triplicate and the results were presented as mean values.

3.6 Cell cultures and in vitro cytotoxicity assay

Compound 1 was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) to make a stock solution with the concentration of 10 mM, which was then diluted to the required concentrations with RPMI 1640 medium (Beijing Xin Jing Ke Biotechnology Co. Ltd., Beijing, China). Cytotoxicity of compound 1 against two human tumor cell lines, K562 (human myeloid leukemia cell line) and SMMC-7721 (human hepatoma cell line). was measured. Cells were plated in 96-well plates for 24 h with initial density of 5000 cells/well and continuously exposed to different concentrations (0.1, 0.3, 0.9, 2.7, 8.1, and 24.3 μ g/ml) of compound 1 for 72 h, with mitomycin C (Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) as the positive control. Inhibition rates of cell proliferation after treatment were determined by the MTT method [20]. IC₅₀ was calculated as the concentration $(\mu g/ml)$ of samples causing 50% inhibition of cell viability. The IC₅₀ values are listed in Table 2.

Acknowledgements

This research was financially supported by National Basic Research Program of China (No. 2009CB125900), National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 30860345), and National Nonprofit Institute Research Grant of CATAS-ITBB (No. ITBBZD0744).

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