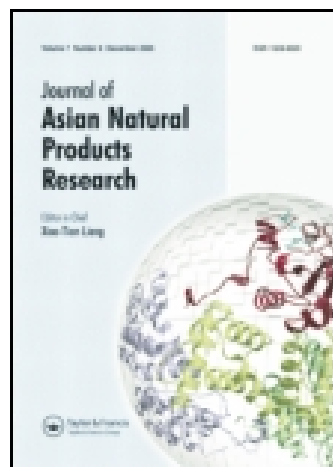


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Three new compounds from the leaves of *Liquidambar formosana*

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Three new compounds from the leaves of *Liquidambar formosana*

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Two new flavan glycosides, (2*S*)-5,7,4'-trihydroxyflavan-7-*O*-β-*D*-glucopyranoside (**1**) and (2*S*)-5,7,4'-trihydroxyflavan-5-*O*-β-*D*-glucopyranoside (**2**), and a new neolignan, (7*S*,8*S*)-3-methoxyl-3'-*O*-β-*D*-glucopyranosyl-4':8,5':7-diepoxyneolignan-4,9'-diol (**3**), were isolated from the leaves of *Liquidambar formosana* Hance. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of spectroscopic data and chemical evidence.

Keywords: *Liquidambar formosana*; flavan glycosides; neolignan

1. Introduction

Liquidambar formosana Hance, belonging to the family Hamamelidaceae, is widely distributed in China, Laos, North Korea, Vietnam, and Japan, and it is known for its resins [1]. Its leaves are used in folk medicine for treating dysentery, diarrhea, hemostasis, and detoxification [2]. Previous phytochemical studies on this plant have led to the isolation and identification of several flavonoids, triterpenoids, and tannins [1,3–8]. Up to date, there are few reports on the chemical constituents or bioactive compounds from the leaves of *L. formosana*. In our preliminary screening, the EtOAc part of the H₂O extract from the leaves of *L. formosana* showed antimicrobial activity. As part of a program to discover significant antimicrobial properties from plant resources has led to the isolation of three new compounds, (2*S*)-5,7,4'-trihydroxyflavan-7-*O*-β-*D*-glucopyranoside (**1**), (2*S*)-5,7,4'-trihydroxyflavan-5-*O*-β-*D*-glucopyranoside (**2**), and (7*S*,8*S*)-3-methoxyl-3'-*O*-β-*D*-glucopyranosyl-4':8,5':7-diepoxyneolignan-4,9'-diol (**3**), from the leaves of *L. formosana* (Figure 1). We report herein

the isolation and elucidation of three new compounds.

2. Results and discussion

The leaves of *L. formosana* were collected from Yiyang, Jiangxi Province, China and identified by Prof. Guiping Yuan, Jiangxi Provincial Institute for Drug and Food Control. The H₂O extract of the leaves of *L. formosana* was fractionated by different solvents, among which the EtOAc fraction displayed significant antimicrobial activity at a concentration of 10 μg/ml. The EtOAc fraction was subjected to separation using various column chromatography (CC) techniques to afford three new compounds (**1–3**).

Compound **1** was obtained as a white amorphous powder. The molecular formula C₂₁H₂₄O₉ was determined by HR-TOF-MS (*m/z* 421.1496 [M + H]⁺, calcd for 421.1493) and supported by NMR spectroscopic data. The UV spectrum showed absorption maxima at 271 nm. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** in CD₃OD exhibited a set of AA'BB' system at δ_H 7.21 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz) and 6.77 (2H, d,

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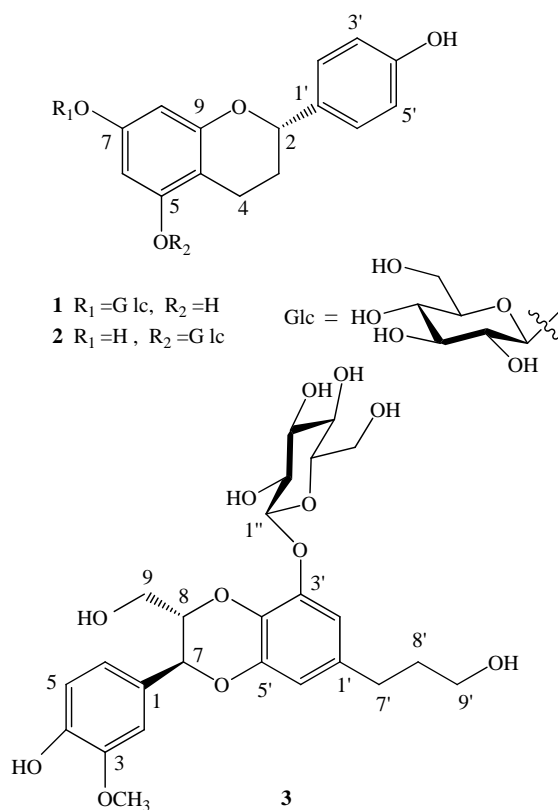


Figure 1. Chemical structures of compounds **1–3**.

$J = 8.4 \text{ Hz}$), two *meta*-coupled aromatic protons at δ_{H} 6.23 (1H, d, $J = 2.0 \text{ Hz}$) and 5.99 (1H, d, $J = 2.0 \text{ Hz}$), and an anomeric proton at δ_{H} 4.86 (1H, overlap) correlated with one anomeric carbon at δ_{C} 102.8 in the HSQC spectrum. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1** displayed 21 carbon signals, of which 6 were assigned to the sugar moiety. Comparison of its ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data with those of 5,7,4'-trihydroxyflavan suggested that they have the same framework [9]. The structural difference is that there is an additional sugar unit in compound **1**. Acid hydrolysis of **1** with 2 M HCl afforded D-glucose, which was identified by GC analysis of their trimethylsilyl L-cysteine derivatives [10]. In the HMBC spectrum, the presence of correlation from Glc-H-1'' (δ_{H} 4.86) to C-7 (δ_{C} 158.1) confirmed that the glucose

unit is located at C-7. In the NOESY spectrum, Glc-H-1'' (δ_{H} 4.86) showed correlations with H-6 (δ_{H} 6.23) and H-8 (δ_{H} 5.99), further indicating that the glucose unit is attached to C-7. Based on the known 2S absolute configuration of S-3,4-dihydro-2-phenyl-2H-1-benzopyran [11–13], and the same fact that a negative Cotton effect ascribed to the $^1\text{L}_b$ transition at 277 nm was observed in the CD spectrum of **1**, the absolute configuration at C-2 was assigned as S. Thus, compound **1** was elucidated as (2S)-5,7,4'-trihydroxyflavan-7-O- β -D-glucopyranoside.

Compound **2** was obtained as a white amorphous powder. It had the same molecular formula as **1**, namely $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_9$, as deduced by HR-TOF-MS (m/z 419.1311 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$, calcd for 419.1323). The NMR spectroscopic data

of **2** were almost identical with those of **1**. The only difference between **2** and **1** is the linkage position of glucose. In the HMBC spectrum of **2**, a long-range correlation from Glc-H-1'' (δ_{H} 4.84) to C-5 (δ_{C} 157.8) confirmed that the glucose unit is located at C-5. In the NOESY spectrum, Glc-H-1'' (δ_{H} 4.84) exhibited a clear correlation with H-6 (δ_{H} 6.24), while no NOE correlation of Glc-H-1''/H-8 was observed, further suggesting that the glucose unit is attached to C-5. The CD spectrum of **2** displayed a negative Cotton effect at 276 nm, similar to compound **1**, and the absolute configuration of C-2 in compound **2** was determined to be *S*. Thus, compound **2** was determined as (2*S*)-5,7,4'-trihydroxyflavan-5-*O*- β -D-glucopyranoside.

Compound **3** was obtained as a white amorphous powder, and its positive-ion HR-TOF-MS gave a quasi-molecular ion peak at m/z 525.1973 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, which indicated the molecular formula to be $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_{12}$. The UV spectrum showed an absorption maximum at 278 nm. The ^1H NMR spectrum of **3** in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ exhibited the following proton signals: ABX-type aromatic protons at δ_{H} 6.98 (1H, d, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 6.82 (1H, dd, $J = 7.8, 3.6$ Hz), and 6.79 (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz); two *meta*-coupled aromatic protons at δ_{H} 6.55 (1H, d, $J = 1.8$ Hz) and 6.39 (1H, d, $J = 1.8$ Hz); a hydroxypropyl group at δ_{H} 2.45–2.48 (2H, m), 1.65–1.68 (2H, m), 3.47 (1H, dd, $J = 12.0, 6.6$ Hz), and 3.65 (1H, d, $J = 12.0$ Hz); a moiety of (ph) **CH**(O)—**CH**(O)—**CH**₂O— [δ_{H} 4.87 (1H, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 4.04–4.07 (1H, m), 3.39 (1H, t, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 3.33 (1H, dd, $J = 12.0, 4.2$ Hz)]; a methoxyl singlet at δ 3.77 (3H, s); and an anomeric signal of a sugar unit at δ_{H} 4.94 (1H, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz). The carbon signals in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **3** further confirmed the above units. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of **3** with those of (7*R*,8*R*)-3-methoxyl-9-*O*- β -D-xylopyranosyl-4':7,5':8-diepoxyneodiepoxyneolignan-4,9'-diol [14] demonstrated that the aglycone part of **3** was likely to be a

dihydrobenzofuran skeleton. Significant HMBC correlations were observed between H-6/C-7, H-7/C-6, H-8/C-7, H-8/C-9, H-8/C-4', and $\text{OCH}_3/\text{C}-3$ (Figure 2). From the foregoing pieces of evidence, the skeleton of **3** could be concluded as 3-methoxyl-4':8,5':7-diepoxyneolignan-4,9'-diol.

Acid hydrolysis of **3** with 2 M HCl afforded D-glucose, which was identified by GC analysis of their trimethylsilyl L-cysteine derivatives [10]. On the basis of the coupling constant of anomeric proton and the chemical shift of the anomeric carbon, the anomeric configuration of the glucose moiety was determined as β [15]. The proton and protonated carbon signals in the NMR spectra of **3** were assigned unequivocally on the basis of ^1H – ^1H COSY and HSQC spectroscopic analyses. In the HMBC spectrum of **3**, a long-range correlation from Glc-H-1'' (δ_{H} 4.94) to C-3' (δ_{C} 144.4) confirmed that the glucose unit is attached to C-3' (Figure 2). The relative configuration of H-7 and H-8 was *trans* from the $J_{7,8}$ value of 7.2 Hz in the ^1H NMR spectrum. The absolute configurations of C-7 and C-8 were determined as 7*S*,8*S* on the basis of the positive Cotton effect at 238 nm in the CD spectrum [16–19]. Therefore, compound **3** was characterized as (7*S*,8*S*)-3-methoxyl-3'-*O*- β -D-glucopyranosyl-4':8,5':7-diepoxyneolignan-4,9'-diol.

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured on an Autopol IV-T/V (Rudolph Research Analytical, New Jersey, NJ, USA). UV spectra were recorded in MeOH on a Jasco V650 spectrophotometer (JASCO, Inc., Easton, Maryland, USA). CD spectra were measured on a MOS-450/AF-CD (Bio-Logic, Claix, France). The ^1H (600 MHz), ^{13}C (150 MHz) and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III 600 instrument using tetramethylsilane as an internal reference (Bruker Company, Billerica, MA, USA). ESI-MS data were

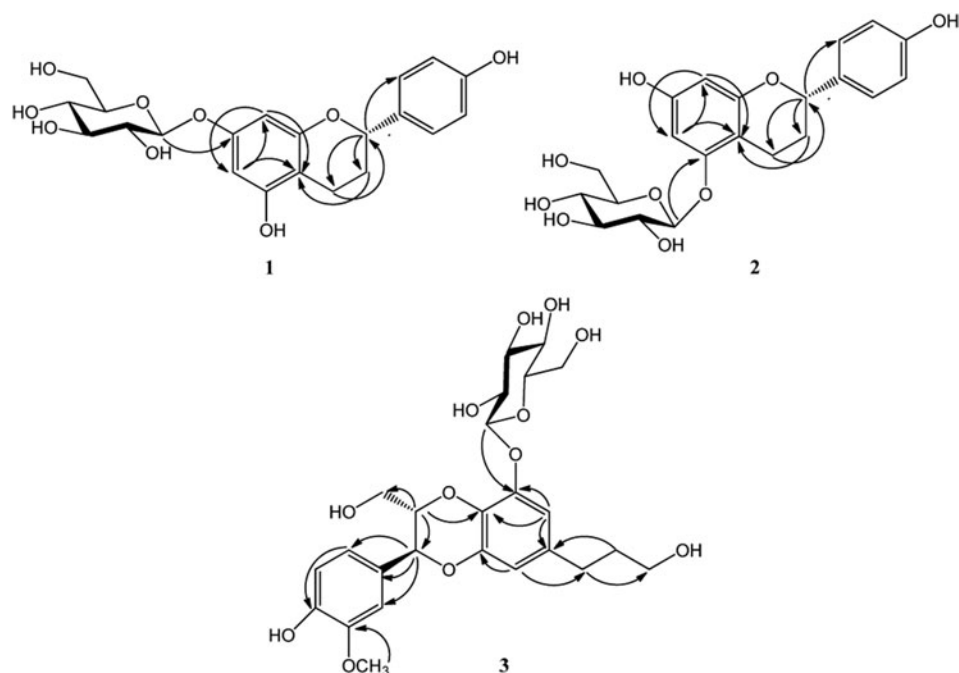


Figure 2. Key HMBC (H \rightarrow C) correlations of compounds **1**–**3**.

collected on a HPLC-MS ZQ4000/2695 instrument (Waters Company, Milford, MA, USA). HR-TOF-MS data were obtained on an Agilent 7890-7000A mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Preparative HPLC was conducted with an Agilent Technologies 1200 series instrument with an multiple wavelength detector using a YMC-pack ODS (Octadecylsilyl)-A column (10 μ m, 250 \times 20 mm). CC was carried out with silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Ltd, Qingdao, China), Develosil ODS (50 μ m, Nomura Chemical Co. Ltd, Osaka, Japan), Sephadex LH-20 (GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Uppsala, Sweden). TLC (thin-layer chromatography) was carried out with glass pre-coated with silica gel GF₂₅₄. Spots were visualized under UV light or by spraying with 10% sulfuric acid in EtOH followed by heating.

3.2 Plant material

The leaves of *L. formosana* were collected from Yiyang, Jiangxi Province, China, in May 2012 and were identified by Prof. Guiping Yuan at Jiangxi Provincial Institute for Drug and Food Control, China. A voucher specimen (No. 20120516) has been deposited in the Herbarium of Jiangxi Provincial Institute for Drug and Food Control.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The powdered dried leaves of *L. formosana* (12.0 kg) were extracted with H₂O at reflux for 3 \times 3 h. The extracted solution was evaporated under reduced pressure to yield a dark residue (2.1 kg), which was suspended in H₂O (16 liters) and then partitioned with CHCl₃ (3 \times 16 liters), EtOAc (3 \times 16 liters), and *n*-BuOH (3 \times 16 liters), successively. After removing the solvent, the EtOAc-soluble portion

Table 1. ^1H NMR (600 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz) spectral data of compounds **1** and **2** in CD_3OD (δ in ppm, J in Hz).

1			2		
Position	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	Position	δ_{H}	δ_{C}
2	4.88 (1H, overlap)	78.3	2	4.82 (1H, overlap)	77.4
3	2.71–2.73 (2H, m)	20.5	3	1.88–1.93 (1H, m)	20.6
				2.87–2.92 (1H, m)	
4	1.91–1.95 (1H, m)	30.7	4	2.08–2.11 (1H, m)	30.8
	2.09–2.11 (1H, m)			2.60–2.65 (1H, m)	
5		158.0	5		157.8
6	6.23 (1H, d, 2.0 Hz)	96.8	6	6.24 (1H, d, 2.4 Hz)	96.7
7		158.1	7		157.9
8	5.99 (1H, d, 2.0 Hz)	99.0	8	5.85 (1H, d, 2.4 Hz)	98.7
9		157.9	9		158.0
10		105.7	10		105.2
1'		133.5	1'		134.4
2'	7.21 (1H, d, 8.4 Hz)	128.6	2'	7.22 (1H, d, 7.8 Hz)	128.6
3'	6.77 (1H, d, 8.4 Hz)	116.3	3'	6.77 (1H, d, 7.8 Hz)	116.2
4'		158.4	4'		158.3
5'	6.77 (1H, d, 8.4 Hz)	116.3	5'	6.77 (1H, d, 8.4 Hz)	116.2
6'	7.21 (1H, d, 8.4 Hz)	128.6	6'	7.22 (1H, d, 8.4 Hz)	128.6
Glc-1''	4.86 (1H, overlap)	102.8	Glc-1''	4.84 (1H, d, 7.8 Hz)	102.7
2''	3.45–3.46 (1H, m)	75.1	2''	3.45–3.46 (1H, m)	75.1
3''	3.43–3.45 (1H, m)	78.4	3''	3.43–3.44 (1H, m)	79.1
4''	3.40–3.42 (1H, m)	71.6	4''	3.40–3.42 (1H, m)	71.6
5''	3.38–3.40 (1H, m)	79.0	5''	3.43–3.44 (1H, m)	77.3
6''	3.71 (1H, dd, 12.0, 5.0 Hz)	63.1	6''	3.73 (1H, dd, 11.0, 4.8 Hz)	62.7
	3.89 (1H, d, 12.0 Hz)			3.91 (1H, d, 11.0 Hz)	

(232 g) was fractionated via silica gel CC, eluting with CHCl_3 :MeOH (3:1, v/v), to give 19 major fractions A_1 – A_{19} on the basis of TLC analysis. Fraction A_{11} (16.6 g) was subjected to silica gel CC and eluted with CHCl_3 :MeOH (15:1 to 1:1, v/v) to afford 12 fractions (A_{11-1} – A_{11-12}). Fraction A_{11-8} (2 g) was separated by ODS CC (50 μM , 10–100% MeOH– H_2O) to give 20 subfractions. Subfraction 12 (184 mg) was further separated by preparative HPLC (YMC-ODS-A 5 μM , 250 mm \times 20 mm, detection at 210 nm) using 13% CH_3CN – H_2O (7 ml/min) as mobile phase to yield **1** (5.4 mg, t_{R} 111 min) and **2** (6.2 mg, t_{R} 121 min). Fraction A_{14} (6 g) was separated by ODS CC (50 μM , 10–100%, MeOH– H_2O) to afford 10 subfractions. Subfraction A_{14-4} (120 mg) was further separated by pre-

parative HPLC (YMC-ODS-A 5 μM , 250 mm \times 20 mm, detection at 210 nm) using 15% CH_3CN – H_2O (7 ml/min) as mobile phase to yield **3** (6.7 mg, t_{R} 102 min).

3.3.1 (2S)-5,7,4'-Trihydroxyflavan-7-O- β -D-glucopyranoside (**1**)

$\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_9$, white amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ –50.0 (c 0.04, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} : 271 nm; CD (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon_{277\text{ nm}}$ –0.552; for ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_3OD) and ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CD_3OD) spectral data, see Table 1; positive ESI-MS m/z : 421 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$; negative ESI-MS m/z : 419 $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$; HR-TOF-MS m/z : 421.1496 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_9$, 421.1493).

3.3.2 (2S)-5,7,4'-Trihydroxyflavan-5-O- β -D-glucopyranoside (2)

C₂₁H₂₄O₉, white amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –23.0 (*c* 0.1, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} : 272 nm; CD (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon_{276\text{ nm}}$ –1.69; for ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) and ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃OD) spectral data, see Table 1; positive ESI-MS *m/z*: 421 [M + Na]⁺; negative ESI-MS *m/z*: 419 [M – H][–]; HR-TOF-MS *m/z*: 419.1311 [M – H][–] (calcd for C₂₁H₂₃O₉, 419.1323).

3.3.3 (7S,8S)-3-Methoxyl-3'-O- β -D-glucopyranosyl-4':8,5':7-diepoxyneolignan-4,9'-diol (3)

C₂₅H₃₂O₁₂, white amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –28.6 (*c* 0.22, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} : 278 nm; CD (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon_{238\text{ nm}}$ –0.369; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO) δ_{H} : 1.65–1.68 (2H, m, H-8'), 2.45–2.48 (2H, m, H-7'), 3.16–3.19 (1H, m, H-4''), 3.24–3.26 (2H, m, H-2'', H-5''), 3.27–3.30 (1H, m, H-3''), 3.33 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.2 Hz, H-9a), 3.39 (2H, t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, H-9'a, H-9'b), 3.47 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.6 Hz, H-6''a), 3.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.2 Hz, H-9b), 3.65 (1H, d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, H-6''b), 3.77 (3H, s, 3-OCH₃), 4.04–4.07 (1H, m, H-8), 4.87 (1H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-7), 4.94 (1H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-1''), 6.39 (1H, d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, H-6'), 6.55 (1H, d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, H-2'), 6.79 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, H-5), 6.82 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 3.6 Hz, H-6), 6.98 (1H, d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, H-2); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO) δ_{C} : 128.2 (C-1), 112.2 (C-6), 148.0 (C-3), 148.0 (C-4), 120.8 (C-5), 115.8 (C-2), 77.5 (C-7), 78.1 (C-8), 60.5 (C-9), 134.2 (C-1'), 110.2 (C-2'), 144.4 (C-3'), 131.9 (C-4'), 146.3 (C-5'), 108.9 (C-6'), 31.8 (C-7'), 34.6 (C-8'), 60.5 (C-9'), 100.7 (C-1''), 73.8 (C-2''), 75.9 (C-3''), 70.1 (C-4''), 76.0 (C-5''), 61.1 (C-6''), 56.2 (3-OCH₃); positive ESI-MS *m/z*: 525 [M + H]⁺; negative ESI-MS *m/z*: 523 [M – H][–]; HR-TOF-MS *m/z*: 525.1973 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₅H₃₃O₁₂, 525.1967).

3.4 Determination of absolute configurations of the sugar moieties in 1–3

Based on the reported procedure [10], each 2 mg of compounds 1–3 was dissolved in 2 M HCl (dioxane:H₂O, 1:1 v/v) and refluxed for 10 h. After removal of the HCl by evaporation and extraction with EtOAc, the H₂O extract was again evaporated and dried *in vacuo* to furnish a monosaccharide residue. The residue was dissolved in pyridine (1 ml) to which 2 mg of L-cysteine methyl ester hydrochloride was added. The mixture was kept at 60°C for 2 h, evaporated under an N₂ stream, and dried *in vacuo*, then trimethylsilylated with *N*-trimethylsilylimidazole (0.2 ml) for 2 h. The mixture was partitioned between *n*-hexane and H₂O (2 ml each), and the *n*-hexane extract was analyzed by GC. In the acid hydrolysate of 1–3, D-glucose was verified by comparison with retention times of its derivatives and with those of corresponding control samples prepared in the same way.

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