TWO BIBENZYL DERIVATIVES FROM THE ORCHID CIRRHOPETALUM ANDERSONII

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Abstract—Cirrhopetalidin and cirrhopetalinin, two new bibenzyl derivatives, and 3,3'-dihydroxy-5-methoxybibenzyl (batatasin-III) were isolated from the orchid *Cirrhopetalum andersonii*. The structures of the new bibenzyls were established as 2',3-dihydroxy-3'-methoxy-4,5-methylenedioxybibenzyl and 3,3'-dihydroxy-4,5-methylenedioxy-bibenzyl, mainly from spectral evidence.

INTRODUCTION

We reported earlier the isolation of 7-hydroxy-4methoxy-2,3-methylenedioxyphenanthrene (cirrhopetalin) from the orchid *Cirrhopetalum andersonii* [1]. Further chemical investigation of this orchid has now resulted in the isolation of two new bibenzyl derivatives, cirrhopetalidin and cirrhopetalinin, besides the known bibenzyl batatasin-III (1h) [2]. The structures of cirrhopetalidin and cirrhopetalinin were established as 1a and 1f respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Both cirrhopetalidin (1a), $C_{16}H_{16}O_5$ ([M]⁺ m/z at 288), mp 137°, and cirrhopetalinin (1f), $C_{15}H_{14}O_4$ ([M]⁺ m/z at 258), mp 130°, showed typical benzenoid UVabsorptions [1a: λ_{max} 214 and 273 nm (log ε 4.42 and 3.43); If: λ_{max} 247 and 275 nm (log ε 3.32 and 3.47)] similar to those of bibenzyl derivatives [3-5]. The phenolic nature of both the compounds was indicated by colour reactions, alkali-induced bathochromic shifts of their UV maxima and their characteristic IR bands [1a: v_{max} 3400 cm⁻¹; 1f: $v_{\rm max}$ 3280 cm⁻¹]. The presence of two phenolic hydroxyl groups in both the compounds was confirmed by the formation of their respective diacetyl derivatives with acetic anhydride and pyridine [cirrhopetalidin diacetatate (1b), $C_{20}H_{20}O_7$ ([M]⁺ m/z at 372); cirrhopetalinin diacetate (1g), $\tilde{C}_{19}H_{18}O_6$ ([M]⁺ m/z at 342)]. Treatment of 1a with diazomethane gave the monomethyl ether 1c, $C_{17}H_{18}O_5$ ([M]⁺ m/z at 302), mp 60°, which on treatment with acetic anhydride and pyridine formed the corresponding acetate 1d, $C_{19}H_{20}O_6$ ([M]⁺ m/z at 344). Cirrhopetalidin dimethyl ether (1e), C₁₈H₂₀O₅ ([M] m/z at 316), mp 56°, was, however, obtained by heating 1a under reflux with MeI in dry acetone in the presence of dry K₂CO₃ for 24 hr.

The ¹H NMR spectra of **1a** and **f** showed signals for two phenolic hydroxyl groups [**1a**: δ 4.85 and 5.73 (each 1H, s); **1f**: δ 4.80 (2H, s); each signal disappeared on deuterium exchange], a methylenedioxy group [**1a**: δ 5.91 (2H, s); **1f**: δ 5.83 (2H, s)] and four benzylic protons [**1a**:





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$$R^1 = OMe R^2 = R^4 = H R^3 = R^5 = Ac$$



a m/z 137 (R¹ = Me, R² = OH) **d** m/z 151 (R = H) **b** m/z 151 (R¹ = Me, R² = OMe) **e** m/z 165 (R = Me)

c m/z 107 (R¹ = R² = H)

 $\delta 2.83$ (4H, m); 1f: $\delta 2.76$ (4H, s)] typical of the bibenzyl derivatives [3-5]. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 1a also showed signals for an aromatic methoxyl group ($\delta 3.83$, 3H, s) and five aromatic protons ($\delta 6.36-6.76$), while that of 1f exhibited additional signals for six aromatic protons ($\delta 6.20-6.72$). Two of the five aromatic protons of 1a appeared as a pair of doublets at $\delta 6.36$ (J = 1.4 Hz) and 6.38 (J = 1.4 Hz) indicating that they are meta to each other. The above signals of 1a are shifted downfield by 0.19 and 0.04 ppm respectively in the spectrum of its diacetate (1b) suggesting that while the proton of 1a corresponding to the signal at $\delta 6.36$ is ortho to a phenolic

hydroxyl group, that representing the signal at $\delta 6.38$ is possibly para to a hydroxyl function. Similarly two of the six aromatic protons of 1f resonated as a pair of illresolved meta-coupled doublets at $\delta 6.20$ and 6.24, which were shifted to $\delta 6.49$ and 6.36, each appearing as a clear doublet with J = 1.2 Hz, in the ¹H NMR spectrum of its diacetate (1g) indicating that the protons corresponding to the above signals of 1f have an identical structural environment to those corresponding to the signals at $\delta 6.36$ and 6.38 of its congener 1a. The above signals of 1a and f may then be assigned to H-2 and H-6 respectively of a 3-hydroxy-4,5-methylenedioxybenzyl moiety present in both the compounds. This is also supported by the striking resemblance of the chemical shifts and the splitting patterns of the above protons of 1a and f with those of the corresponding protons of the methyl ether derivatives of a few bibenzyls containing identical benzylic moiety reported earlier by Asakawa et al. [6]. While the second benzylic moiety of 1a should contain its remaining three aromatic protons, the lone methoxyl group and the other hydroxyl function, that of 1f must bear its remaining four aromatic protons and the second hydroxyl group. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of 1b, the remaining three aromatic protons of 1a resonating at $\delta 6.39$ -6.76 as an ill-resolved complex multiplet, appeared as three distinct signals at $\delta 6.76 (1H, d, J = 7.9 \text{ Hz}), 7.10 (1H, apparent triplet, due to$ coupling with two adajcent ortho protons) and 6.83 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), which may be assigned to the three consecutive aromatic protons at C-4', C-5' and C-6' respectively of 1b with the acetoxy group at C-2' and the methoxy function at C-3'. The signals for the corresponding three aromatic protons of cirrhopetalidin monomethyl ether (1c) at $\delta 6.47-6.77$ (3H, m), likewise, appeared in the spectrum of its acetate (1d) at $\delta 6.75$ (1H, brd, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.10 (1H, apparent triplet) and 6.83 (1H, br d, J = 8.1 Hz), which may, accordingly, be assigned to H-4', H-5' and H-6' respectively of 1d. These observations thus suggest the presence of a 2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylic moiety in both 1a and c. This, in turn, also implies that it is the hydroxyl group at C-2' of 1a which does not undergo methylation with diazomethane, presumably due to the steric effect of the two ortho substituents (OMe at C-3' and the benzylic side chain at C-1'). The complex multiplet at $\delta 6.60-6.72$ in the ¹HNMR spectrum of 1f representing its remaining four aromatic protons is partially resolved in the spectrum of its diacetate (1g) and appeared at δ 7.04 (1H, apparent triplet), 6.83–6.86 (2H, m) and 6.95 (1H, ill-resolved d, J = 7.8 Hz). The chemical shifts and the splitting patterns of these protons of 1g are almost identical with those of the ring-B aromatic protons of batatasin-III diacetate (1i) [2] and are also comparable with those of the aromatic protons of the 3-methoxybenzyl residue of a number of bibenzyl derivatives [6, 7]. The above observations thus clearly establish the presence of the same 3-hydroxybenzyl moiety in both 1f and batatasin-III (1h) [2].

The distribution of the oxygen substituents between the two benzene rings of both 1a and f was also ascertained by the mass spectral fragmentations of the compounds and those of 1c and e. Thus, the mass spectra of both 1a and f showed an intense peak at m/z 151 (due to the ion-fragment d). In the mass spectra of both 1c and e, the above peak was shifted to m/z 165 (ion-fragment e) indicating that the phenolic hydroxyl group which underwent methylation with diazomethane was the one associated with the ring-A of 1a. But while the mass spectra of both 1a and its monomethyl ether (1c) exhibited another fairly intense peak at m/z 137 (ion-fragment a), that of 1f showed a second peak at m/z 107 (ion-fragment c). In the mass spectrum of cirrhopetalidin dimethyl ether (1e), the peak at m/z 137 of 1a was shifted to m/z 151 (ion-fragment b).

Structures 1a and f were finally confirmed by the ¹³CNMR spectral data of **1a-e** and **g** (Table 1). The degree of protonation of the carbon atoms of each compound was determined by DEPT experiments and the assignments of the carbon chemical shifts for each compound were made by comparison with the $\delta_{\rm C}$ values of structurally related compounds [3-5] taking into consideration the known additive parameters of the functional groups. The presence of a methylenedioxy group in each of the above compounds was indicated by the appearance of a methylene carbon signal at $ca \delta_c$ 101 in the spectrum of each of these compounds. The virtual identity of the $\delta_{\rm C}$ values of the ring-A carbon atoms of 1b and g, which corresponded to those calculated for a 3acetoxy-4,5-methylenedioxybenzyl moiety, indicated the presence of the above structural unit in both the compounds. Replacement of the acetoxy group of this moiety by hydroxyl function as in 1a, and by methoxyl group as in 1c-e resulted in the appropriate shifts of the $\delta_{\rm C}$ values of the ortho (C-2 and C-4) and the para (C-6) carbon atoms. The $\delta_{\rm C}$ values of the ring-B carbon atoms of 1a and c are also in good agreement with those calculated for a 2hydroxy-3-methoxybenzyl moiety. The assignments of the above δ_c values of **1a** and **c** were confirmed by the appropriate shifts of the C-1', C-3' and C-5' resonances in 1b and d (due to replacement of hydroxyl at C-2' by acetoxy function) and in 1e (due to methylation of the C-2' hydroxyl group). In the light of the general observation that the carbon atom of an aromatic methoxyl group having at least one ortho hydrogen atom resonates at the normal position (ca δ_c 55–56) [3–5, 8–11], while that of such a group flanked between two ortho substituents are shifted downfield to ca $\delta_{\rm C}$ 60–62 [3–5, 12–15], the appearance of the methoxyl carbon signals of 1a d at the normal position ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 55–56) indicated the methoxyl group in each of these compounds to be at C-3' (having an ortho hydrogen atom at C-4') rather than at C-2' with hydroxyl or acetoxyl group at C-3'. The most convincing proof in support of the placement of a methoxyl group at C-2' in **1a** was provided by the appearance of one of the methoxy carbons of 1e at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 60.28, while those of its other two methoxyl groups showing normal resonances at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 55.48 and 56.30. The downfield methoxy carbon signal of 1e thus corresponds to a methoxyl group at C-2', which was generated by methylation of a hydroxyl group at the same position in 1a. The $\delta_{\rm C}$ values of C- α , C- α' , C-1', C-2', C-3', C-4', C-5' and C-6' of 1g are essentially the same as those of the corresponding carbon atoms of batatasin-III diacetate (1i) confirming the structural identity of this part of their molecules. It may be noted that while both the benzylic methylene carbon atoms of 1g and i appeared at the normal positions (ca $\delta_{\rm C}$ 36–37), the signal for one of such carbon atoms of each of **1a**-e were shifted upfield by ca 5 ppm (the other benzylic methylene carbon atoms of these compounds resonated at the normal positions). The upfield benzylic methylene carbon signals of the above compounds correspond to their C- α , and the observed upfield shifts of the above carbon atoms may be attributed to the steric effects of the substituents at C-2', which find analogy with similar upfield shifts of C-10 of

С	Chemical shifts (δ values)*						
	1a	1b	1c	1 d	le	1g	1i
1	137.16ª	136.66 ^b	136.80	135.94 ^d	136.57 ^f	137.03	143.68
2	108.47	115.17	107.39	107.40	107.67	115.34	113.73
3	138.72ª	132.74	143.33°	143.15	143.18	132.85	151.45
4	131.9	135.85 ^b	133.02	134.43°	133.10	135.62	105.17
5	148.50	149.16	148.46	148.53	148.56	149.22	160.24
6	102.15	106.60	102.38	102.09	102.29	106.55	111.76
1′	127.35	134.38 ^b	127.25	133.14°	135.11 ^f	142.97	142.98 ^s
2'	143.42	137.99 ^b	143.16°	137.92 ^d	147.04	121.34	121.35
3'	146.23	151.02	146.16	150.93	152.54	150.68	150.65
4'	110.51	110.07	108.37	109.88	110.30	119.04	119.06
5'	119.14	126.18	119.05	125.99	121.77	129.11	129.14
6′	122.23	121.50	122.19	121.49	123.46	125.77	125.81
α	32.04	32.01	32.07	32.18	32.08	37.37	37.33
α′	35.70	35.75	35.90	36.04	36.88	36.99	36.99
-OCH ₂ O-	101.10	101.64	100.94	100.95	100.82	101.61	
OMe	55.9	55.82	56.25	56.21	60.28		55.23
			55.77	55.63	56.30		
					55.48		
OAc		168.84		168.67		167.88	169.32
		168.03		20.28		169.21	20.95
		20.43				20.92	
						20.37	

Table 1. ¹³C NMR spectral data of **1a-e**, g and i

* The δ values are in ppm downfield from TMS: $\delta_{(TMS)} = \delta_{(CDCl_3)} + 76.9$ ppm.

^{a-s} Values are interchangeable.

coelogin and coeloginin diacetate [15] caused by methoxyl substituent at C-1 and that of C-9 of confusarin diacetate and confusridin by methoxyl group at C-8 [14].

EXPERIMENTAL

Mps: uncorr. Silica gel (100–200 mesh) was used for CC and silica gel G for TLC. UV spectra were measured in 95% aldehyde-free EtOH and IR spectra in KBr discs. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured in 300 and 75 MHz respectively using TMS as int. standard, and chemical shifts are expressed in δ values. MS were recorded with a direct inlet system at 70 eV. All the analytical samples were routinely dried over P₂O₅ for 24 hr *in vacuo* and were tested for purity by TLC and mass spectrometry. Dry Na₂SO₄ was used for drying organic solvents and the petrol used had bp 60–80°.

Isolation of cirrhopetaldin (1a), cirrhopetalinin (1f) and batatasin-III (1h). Air-dried powdered whole plant of Cirrhopetalum andersonii (2 kg) was kept soaked in MeOH (7 l) for 3 weeks. The MeOH extract was then drained out, concd under red. pres. to ca 100 ml, diluted with H₂O (500 ml) and extracted with Et₂O. The ether extract was fractionated into acidic and nonacidic fractions with 2 M aq. NaOH soln. The aq. alkaline soln was acidified with conc. HCl in the cold and the liberated solid was extracted with Et₂O, washed with H₂O, dried and the solvent removed. The residue was chromatographed. The petrol–EtOAc (20:1) eluate gave cirrhopetalin (0.12 g), crystallized from petrol–EtOAc, mp 142°. The petrol–EtOAc (15:1) eluate gave 1a (0.2g), crystallized from petrol–EtOAc mixt., mp 137°. (Found: C, 66.55; H, 5.61. C₁₆H₁₆O₅ requires: C, 66.60; H, 5.55%), UV (EtOH–0.1 M NaOH); λ_{max} 224 and 290 nm (log ε 4.44 and 3.59); IR ν_{max} cm⁻¹:

3400 (OH), 1628, 1590, 850, 830, 809, 780, 740 and 730 (aromatic nucleus); MS m/z (rel. int.): 288 ([M]⁺, 64), 152 (43), 151 (100), 137 (64), 122 (20), 121 (18), 94 (17), 77 (19), 65 (24) and 53 (44). Acetate (1b) semisolid (Found: C, 64.38; H, 5.41. C₂₀H₂₀O₇ requires: C, 64.50; H, 5.30%). UV λ_{max} nm: 212, 264, 280 and 321 (log ε 4.42, 3.40, 3.35 and 2.51); IR $\nu_{\rm max}~{\rm cm}^{-1}$: 1280 and 1770 (OAc), 1635, 1610, 1590, 890, 840, 820, 790 and 750 (aromatic nucleus); ¹HNMR: $\delta 2.29$ and 2.34 (each 3H, s; 2×OAc), 2.69 (4H, complex multiplet; H_2 - α and H_2 - α'), 3.81 (3H, s; ArOMe), 6.37 (2H, s; -OCH2O-), 6.42 (1H, br s; H-2), 6.55 (1H, br s; H-6), 6.76 (1H, br d, J = 7.8 Hz; H-4'), 6.83 (1H, br d, J = 8.1 Hz; H-6') and 7.10 (1H, apparent triplet; H-5'). Dimethylether 1c crystallized from petrol-EtOAc, mp 60° (Found: C, 67.47; H, 6.11. C₁₇H₁₈O₅ requires: C, 67.54; H, 5.96%). IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 3400 (OH), 1630, 1510, 890, 830, 815, 800 and 775 (aromatic nucleus). ¹H NMR: $\delta 2.89$ (4H, br m, H₂- α and H₂- α'), 3.80 (6H, s, 2 × ArOMe), 5.71 (1H, s, ArOH), 5.94 (2H, s, -OCH₂O-), 6.30 (1H, br s, H-2), 6.39 (1H, br s, H-6), 6.47-6.77 (3H, m, H-4', H-5' and H-6'); MS m/z (rel. int.): 302 ([M]⁺, 15), 165 (100), 137 (85), 122 (46), 120 (60), 94 (42), 92 (59), 79 (50), 77 (80) and 64 (46). Dimethyl ether acetate (1d) semisolid (Found: C, 66.20; H, 5.87. C₁₉H₂₀O₆ requires: C, 66.27; H, 5.81%). IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 1750 and 1220 (OAc), 1630, 1510, 845, 830, 825, 810 and 780 (aromatic nucleus). ¹H NMR: δ2.35 (3H, s, OAc), 2.77 (4H, s, H₂-a and H₂-a'), 3.81 and 3.84 (each 3H, s, 2 × ArOMe), 5.91 (2H, s, -OCH₂O-), 6.29 (1H, br s, H-2), 6.38 (1H, br s, H-6), 6.75 (1H, br d, J = 7.8 Hz; H-4'), 6.83 (1H, br d, J)= 8.1 Hz; H-6') and 7.10 (1H, apparent triplet; H-5'). Trimethyl ether (1e), crystals from petrol-EtOAc (30:1), mp 56°. (Found: C, 68.23; H, 6.40. C18H20O5 requires: C, 68.35; H, 6.32%). IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 1630, 1500, 840, 825, 810 and 785 (aromatic nucleus); MS m/z (rel. int.): 316 ([M]⁺, 61), 165 (100), 151 (26), 136 (26) and 91 (23).

Elution of the main column with petrol-EtOAc (10:1) gave a mixt. of 1f and 1h. Repeated chromatography of the mixt. gave in the early fractions of the petrol-EtOAc (12:1) cluate 1h (0.08 g) as a semisolid mass. The UV, IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR and mass spectral data of the compound and its diacetate compared excellently with those reported for batatasin-III and its diacetate respectively establishing their identity, although direct comparison could not be made due to non-availability of authentic samples. The ¹³C NMR spectral data of the diacetate 1i is reported here for the first time.

The later fractions of the above chromatography afforded pure **1f** (0.07 g), crystallized from petrol-EtOAc, mp 130°. (Found: C, 69.65, H, 5.50, $C_{13}H_{14}O_4$ requires: C, 69.70; H, 5.42%). UV (EtOH-0.1 M NaOH): λ_{max} 253 and 291 nm (log ε 3.54 and 3.61); IR ν_{max} cm⁻¹: 3280 (OH), 1600, 1520, 860, 840, 820 and 780 (aromatic nucleus); MS *m*/*z* (rel int.): 258 ([M]⁺, 8), 152 (21), 151 (100), 121 (4), 107 (4), 77 (12), 65 (13) and 53 (37). Acetate (**1g**) semisolid (Found: C, 66.67; H, 5.14. $C_{19}H_{18}O_6$ requires: C, 66.60; H, 5 20%). UV λ_{max} nm: 246 and 279 (log ε 3.50 and 3.54); IR ν_{max} cm⁻¹: 1275 and 1758 (OAc), 1602, 1582, 880, 856, 835, 806 and 788 (aromatic nucleus); ¹H NMR: δ 2.22 (6H, *s*, 2 × OAc), 2.78 (4H, *m*, H₂- α and H₂- α'), 5 89 (2H, *s*, -OCH₂O-), 6 36 (1H, *br s*, H-6), 6.49 (1H, *d*, *J* = 1 2 Hz; H-2), 6.83–6.86 (2H, *m*, H-2' and H-4'), 6.95 (1H, *m*, H-6') and 7.21 (1H, apparent triplet; H-5').

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