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New phenanthrene glycosides from Dioscorea opposita

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Two new phenanthrene glycosides, dioscopposide A and dioscopposide B (1 and 2), were isolated from the rhizomes of *Dioscorea opposita*. Their structures were determined primarily on the basis of 1D and 2D NMR techniques, MS studies, and chemical methods. All the isolates were evaluated for their inhibitory effects on the lipopolysaccharide-induced nitric oxide production using murine macrophage RAW 264.7 cells. The IC₅₀ values of dioscopposide A and dioscopposide B were 5.8 and 7.2 μ M, respectively.

Keywords: Dioscorea opposita; phenanthrene glycosides; dioscopposide A, B

1. Introduction

The Dioscorea opposita Thunb. grows wild in China, and the tuber is used as a food. This plant is also included in the Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China and is widely used to treat anorexia, chronic diarrhea, diabetes, seminal emission and excessive leukorrhea [1,2]. Previous investigation on the phytochemistry of this plant leads to isolation of phenanthrene and bibenzyl derivatives, which showed anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, and radical scavenging activities [3-6]. In the course of a search for biologically active compounds from Chinese medicinal plants, we have investigated the rhizomes of D. opposita. Two phenanthrene glycosides were isolated and characterized (1 and 2) (Figure 1). This paper describes the isolation and structural elucidation of these compounds and the evaluation of their effects against nitric oxide (NO) production.

2. Results and discussion

Dioscopposide A (1) was isolated as an amorphous solid. Its molecular formula was determined as C₂₆H₃₀O₁₃ by negative HR-ESI-MS, showing an $[M-H]^-$ peak at m/z 549.1603. The IR spectrum exhibited absorptions at 3288, 1730, and 1432 cm^{-1} (aromatic rings). The ¹H NMR spectrum of 1 (Table 1) showed the presence of seven aromatic protons of aglycone (H-1, H-2, H-5, H-7, H-8, H-9, and H-10) and protons of sugar in the range of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.63– 5.12. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR (Table 1), combined with distortionless enhancement by polarization transfer (DEPT) and HMQC, spectra of 1 revealed that 1 contained seven aromatic methine carbons (C-1, C-2, C-5, C-7, C-8, C-9, and C-10), seven quaternary aromatic carbons (C-3, C-4, C-4a, C-4b, C-8a, and C-10a), two anomeric carbons (C-1' and C-1"), two methylene carbons (C-6' and C-6''), and eight methine carbons (C-2'-C-5' and

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Figure 1. The structures of compounds 1 and 2.

Table 1. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data of compounds **1** and **2** (500 MHz, in pyridine- d_5).

Position	1		2	
	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	$\delta_{ m H}$	δ_{C}
1	7.02 d (8.0)	115.8	7.01 d (8.0)	115.7
2	7.22 d (8.0)	118.3	7.23 d (8.0)	118.2
3		151.1		151.2
4		152.7		152.6
4a		109.3		109.2
4b		136.7		136.6
5	7.56 d (1.5)	123.9	7.29 d (1.5)	121.5
6		143.7		144.9
7	7.01 dd (7.5, 1.5)	118.8	6.82 dd (7.0, 1.5)	118.2
8	7.95 dd (7.5, 1.0)	118.6	7.94 dd (7.0, 1.0)	117.8
8a		127.6		127.5
9	7.04 dd (7.5, 1.0)	121.3	7.04 dd (7.5, 1.0)	121.2
10	7.41 d (7.5)	111.5	7.41 d (7.5)	111.4
10a		118.6		118.5
Glc ¹				
1'	5.04 d (8.0)	102.8	5.14 d (8.0)	102.6
2'	3.84 dd (9.0, 8.0)	74.2	4.12 dd (9.5, 8.0)	74.3
3'	4.12 dd (9.0, 8.0)	76.6	4.26 dd (9.5, 8.0)	77.5
4′	4.21 m	81.2	4.14 m	70.8
5'	3.63 m	76.7	3.96 m	77.6
6′a	4.25 dd (12.0, 6.0)	61.9	4.31 dd (12.0, 6.0)	61.5
6′b	4.11 dd (12.0, 2.0)		4.22 dd (12.0, 2.0)	
Glc ²				
1″	5.12 d (8.0)	104.6		
2"	3.98 dd (9.5, 8.0)	74.9		
3″	4.20 dd (9.5, 8.0)	78.3		
4″	4.15 m	71.5		
5″	3.92 m	78.4		
6″a	4.50 dd (13.0, 7.0)	62.3		
6″b	4.20 dd (13.0, 2.0)			
OMe			3H, 3.70 s	55.2

C-2''-C-5''). A detailed analysis of the ¹H⁻¹H correlated spectroscopy (COSY) spectrum of 1 allowed to elucidate the following three pairs of ortho-coupled aromatic protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.02 (H-1) and 7.22 (H-2), 7.01 (H-7) and 7.95 (H-8), and 7.04 (H-9) and 7.41 (H-10). In the HMBC spectrum, H-1 showed correlations with two aromatic carbons C-3 and C-10, and H-2 correlated with C-3 and C-4, respectively. H-5, an isolated proton, showed HMBC correlations with three quaternary carbons C-4a, C-4b, and C-8a. Crosspeaks were equally observed between H-7 and C-6 and C-8a. Additional HMBC correlations were observed between H-8 and C-4b and C-9, between H-9 and C-4b and C-10a, and between H-10 and C-8a and C-10a (Figure 2). All these data suggested the presence of a 3,4,6-trisubstitued phenanthrene [4]. The 1 H and 13 C NMR data, as well as acid hydrolysis and GC comparison with an authentic sample, indicated the presence of two D-glucose moieties. The β -configuration of the glycosidic linkage was determined from the coupling constant of the anomeric proton. The connections of the Glc¹-C-1[/]/ aglycone-C-3 and Glc²-C-1"/Glc¹-C-4' were revealed by HMBC correlations H-1'/C-3 and H-1"/C-4'. The proton and carbon signals of 1 were assigned using



Figure 2. Selected HMBC correlations of compound **1**.

¹H, ¹³C, ¹H–¹H COSY, 1D TOCSY, HSQC, HMBC, and NOESY NMR experiments. From these results, the structure of **1** was determined as shown in Figure 1 and named as dioscopposide A.

Dioscopposide B(2) was isolated as an amorphous solid. Its molecular formula was determined as C₂₁H₂₂O₈ by negative HR-ESI-MS, showing an $[M-H]^{-}$ peak at m/z 401.1233. Comparison of the NMR data for 1 and 2 revealed that the compounds are similar except for the absence of signals for Glc² connected to Glc^1-C-4' in 1. This was confirmed by the C-4' appeared comparatively upfield at δ 70.8. In addition, the connection of a methoxyl group ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.70 and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 55.2) and C-6 was confirmed by HMBC correlation of $\delta_{\rm H}$ OCH₃-3.70/C-6. Thus, compound 2 was determined as shown in Figure 1 and named as dioscopposide B.

Compounds 1 and 2 were evaluated for their inhibitory activity against NO production. Aminoguanidine was used as a positive control. The IC₅₀ values of 1, 2, and aminoguanidine were 5.8, 7.2 and 15.3 μ M, respectively.

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured on a Jasco DIP-360 digital polarimeter (Jasco Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). UV spectra were obtained on a TU-1901 spectrometer (Beijing Purkinje General Instrument Co., Ltd, Beijing, China). IR spectra were detected by a Nexus-470 FT-IR (Nicolet) spectrometer (Thermo Electron, Madison, WI, USA). NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Inova 500 spectrometer (Varian, Palo Alto, CA, USA) with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. HR-ESI-MS data were measured using a Q-TOF micro mass spectrometer (Waters, Millford, MA, USA). GC was obtained on an Agilent 6890N gas chromatography (Agilent Technologies, CA, USA). Column chromatography was carried out on D101

porous polymer resin (Tianjin Chemical Industry Co., Ltd, Tianjin, China), silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co., Ltd, Qingdao, China), and C₁₈ silica gel (150–200 mesh, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). HPLC was performed on Waters 600 Controller (Waters, Milford, MA, USA) by using an Agilent Eclipse XDB C₁₈ semi-preparative column (250 mm × 9.4 mm, i.d. 5 μ m, Agilent Technologies, Inc., CA, USA).

3.2 Plant material

The rhizomes of *D. opposita* were collected from Wenxian, Henan Province, China, in July 2012, and were identified by Dr Ken Yuzhong Zheng, Hanshan Normal University. A voucher specimen (No. 201204) has been deposited in the herbarium of Department of Biology of Hanshan Normal University.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The air-dried powdered rhizomes of D. opposita $(15 \, \text{kg})$ were successively extracted with 75% EtOH under reflux. The resultant extract was combined and dried under reduced pressure to give concentrated extractives. The latter was subsequently suspended in water and partitioned successively with petroleum ether, EtOAc, and *n*-butanol. The *n*-butanol part (322 g) was subjected to column chromatography by a combination of D101 macroporous resin, eluted gradiently with 10% EtOH and 60% EtOH, successively. The fraction eluted with 60% EtOH (120 g) was subjected to repeated ODS column chromatography [MeOH:H₂O (5:95-95:5)] to afford four subfractions. Subfraction 3 (12.5 g) was separated by semi-preparative HPLC (MeOH:H₂O 20:80, 2.0 ml/min) to yield 1 (33 mg) and 2 (36 mg).

3.3.1 Dioscopposide A (1)

Yellow amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} - 22.6$ (*c* 0.25, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} 222, 239,

341 nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3288, 1730, and 1432. ¹H NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 500 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 125 MHz) spectral data, see Table 1. HR-ESI-MS: m/z 549.1603 [M–H]⁻ (calcd for C₂₆H₂₉O₁₃, 549.1608).

3.3.2 Dioscopposide B (2)

Yellow amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 16.6$ (*c* 0.25, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} 222, 239, 341 nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3328, 2832, 1690, and 1441. ¹H NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 500 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 125 MHz) data, see Table 1. HR-ESI-MS: *m*/*z* 401.1233 [M - H]⁻ (calcd for C₂₁H₂₁O₈, 401.1236).

3.4 Acid hydrolysis

Compounds 1 and 2 (5 mg, respectively)were hydrolyzed separately with 2 M HCl (0.5 ml) for 10 h at 95°C. After filtration of the reaction mixture, the filtrate was evaporated under vacuum. After addition of H₂O, the acidic solution was evaporated again to remove HCl. This procedure was repeated until a neutral solution was obtained, which was finally 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 2h and evaporated under N2 stream and dried in vacuo. The residue was trimethylsilylated with N-trimethylsilylimidazole (0.2 ml) for 2 h. The mixture was partitioned between nhexane and H_2O (2 ml each), and the *n*hexane extract was analyzed by GC under the following conditions: capillary column, DB-5 $(30 \text{ m} \times 0.25 \text{ mm} \times 0.25 \text{ mm})$; detection, FID; detector temperature, 280°C; injection temperature, 250°C; initial temperature was maintained at 100°C for 2 min and then raised to 280°C at the rate of 10°C/ min, and final temperature was maintained for 5 min; carrier, N_2 gas. The peak of the hydrolysate of 1 and 2 was detected at 24.94 min (D-glucose) by comparison with authentic sample [7].

3.5 NO production from lipopolysaccharide-stimulated macrophages

Inhibitory effect on the NO production by mouse macrophages (RAW 264.7) was evaluated using the method reported previously [8]. Briefly, thioglycolate-induced peritoneal exudate cells (5200 cells/well) were collected from the peritoneal cavities of male ddY mice and were suspended in 100 ml of RPMI 1640 supplemented with 5% fetal calf serum (FCS), penicillin G (100 units/ml), and streptomycin sulfate (100 mg/ml), and were precultured in 96well microplates at 37°C in 5% CO₂ in air for 1 h. Nonadherent cells were removed by washing with phosphate buffer solution, and the adherent cells were cultured in 200 ml of fresh medium containing 10 mg/ml lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and various concentrations of each test compound for 20 h. NO production in each well was assessed by measuring the accumulation of nitrite (NO_2^-) in the culture medium using Griess reagent.

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