

PII: S0031-9422(96)00556-0

A TRITERPENOID SAPONIN FROM MAESA RAMENTACEA

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(Received 19 June 1996)

Key Word Index—Maesa ramentacea; Myrsinaceae; triterpenoid saponin; piscicidal activity.

Abstract—The structure of a piscicidal triterpenoid saponin (saponin A) isolated from the leaves of *Maesa* ramentacea has been shown to be 3-O-{[(α -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 2)- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 2)- β -D-gal-actopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 3)]-[β -D-glucopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 2)]- β -D-glucuronopyranosyl}barringtogenol C21, 22-O-diangeloate. Extensive use was made of homo- and heteronuclear 2D NMR techniques. Copyright © 1997 Elsevier Science Ltd

INTRODUCTION

In a search for piscicidal compounds from Thai plants, an aqueous extract of the leaves of Maesa ramentacea was found to show good piscicidal activity $(LD_{100} =$ 100 mg l^{-1} [1]. It occurred to us that these leaves could be potentially useful as a fish poison in commercial fish and prawn farming. Maesa ramentacea is a rapidly growing, common tree in the southern part of Thailand and should present no difficulty in cultivation. For this reason, chemical studies of this plant were undertaken. Quinones, flavonoids, triterpenoids and saponins have so far been found as constituents of Maesa spp. The benzoquinones, bhogatin and maesanin, have been isolated from M. macrophylla [2] and M. lanceloata [3], respectively, and quercitin 3-rhamnoside has been reported from the leaves of M. indica [4]. Three triterpenoids, camelliagenin and two derivatives, were isolated from the leaves of M. chisia var. angustifolia [5] and recently six new saponins having moderate virucidal activity were obtained from the leaves of M. lanceolata [6]. We now wish to report the isolation and structural elucidation of a new triterpenoid saponin from the leaves of M. ramentacea. The compound showed strong piscicidal activity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A crude saponin fraction was obtained by extraction of an aqueous extract of milled leaves with *n*-butanol, followed by chromatography on silica gel. This fraction showed significant piscicidal activity $(LD_{100} =$ $1 \text{ mg } 1^{-1}$). The fraction was further purified by TLC on silanized silica gel to give a single spot saponin fraction. HPLC gave pure saponin A(1).

The FAB (negative ion) mass spectrum gave an $[M - H]^{-}$ ion at m/z 1445, corresponding to a molecular formula $C_{70}H_{110}O_{31}$. Prominent fragment ions occurred at m/z 1299 $[M - H - 146]^{-}$ and 1283 $[M - H^{-}]$ H = 162, corresponding to the independent losses of a deoxyhexose and a hexose unit, indicating a branched oligosaccharide with terminal deoxyhexose and hexose. Other ions appeared at m/z 1153 [M – H – 146 – $146]^{-}$, 991 $[M - H - 146 - 146 - 162]^{-}$, 829 $[M - 146 - 162]^{-}$ H - 146 - 146 - 162 - 162 and 653 [M - H -146 - 146 - 162 - 162 - 176], corresponding to the subsequent loss of a deoxyhexose and a hexose unit and finally a hexuronic acid unit. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of the saponin (Table 1) exhibited signals for five anomeric carbons (δ 101.2, 101.5, 103.1, 103.9 and 105.6) and three carbonyl carbons (δ 168.5, 169.1 and 176.0). The peak at δ 90.9, showing a significant glycosidation shift, was suggestive of the linkage of the sugar moiety to the aglycone at C-3. Methanolysis of the saponin using the method previously described [7] gave a sugar fraction containing L-rhamnose, D-glucose, D-galactose and D-glucuronic acid. The aglycone product was identified as 21,22-O-diangeloylbarringtogenol C. This was confirmed by its spectroscopic properties, by preparation of the diacetyl derivative and by alkaline hydrolysis to barringtogenol C (characterized as the pentaacetate).

The complete structure of 1 was determined by extensive 2D NMR experiments at 600 HMz, using a

	Table	1.	C	NMR	chemical	shifts	of	saponin	Α	(I) in j	pyridine- d_5	
glycone	(δ)										Sugar (δ)	

	$\operatorname{ar}(\delta)$	Sug	Aglycone (δ)				
101.5	Rha1 C-1	105.6	Glu C-1	69.4	C-16	39.5	C-1
79.3	C-2	79.8	C-2	48.6	C-17	26.9	C-2
72.7	C-3	82.4	C-3	40.7	C-18	90.9	C-3
74.6	C-4	71.7	C-4	47.8	C-19	37.3	C-4
70.2	C-5	71.7	C-5	36.8	C-20	56.4	C-5
18.5	C-6	176.0	C-6	79.5	C-21	19.9	C-6
103.9	Rha2 C-1	103.1	Glc C-1	75.4	C-22	33.7	C-7
72.4	C-2	76.6	C-2	28.5	C-23	40.2	C-8
73.1	C-3	78.6	C-3	17.2	C-24	47.5	C-9
74.5	C-4	73.1	C-4	16.1	C-25	36.8	C-10
70.5	C-5	78.4	C-5	17.5	C-26	24.4	C-11
18.7	C-6	64.0	C-6	28.1	C-27	124.6	C-12
		101.2	Gal C-1	64.5	C-28	143.2	C-13
		77.2	C-2	30.0	C-29	40.7	C-14
		76.1	C-3	20.7	C-30	35.1	C-15
		71.6	C-4				
		77.4	C-5	21,22-O-Diangeloyl (δ)			
		60.5	C-6				
					168.5	169.1	C-1′
					129.4	129.4	C-2′
					137.7	138.1	C-3′
					16.3	16.3	C-4′
					21.2	21.3	C-5′

pyridine- d_5 solution at the optimum temperature for resolution and dispersion of 333 K. The ¹H NMR spectrum (sugar region) was fully assigned from a combination of the 2D DQF-COSY, and 2D DQ spectra, and 1D TOCSY experiments involving selective excitation of the individual anomeric ¹H signals. The assignments are shown in Table 2. The ¹³C NMR spectrum was then assigned by a combination of DEPT, 2D HMQC and 2D HMBC experiments (Table 1). Finally, the positions of the glycosidic linkages were established from the connectivities indicated in the 2D HMBC, NOE and ROESY experiments. The HMBC

Table 2. ¹H NMR chemical shifts (δ) for the sugar moieties of saponin A (1) in pyridine- d_5

Glu	H-1	4.83	Rhal H-1	5.99
	H-2	4.58	H-2	4.64
	H-3	4.75	H-3	4.55
	H-4	4.42	H-4	3.99
	H-5	4.49	H-5	4.70
			H-6	1.42
Glc	H-1	5.60	Rha2 H-1	5.68
	H-2	3.95	H-2	4.60
	H-3	4.22	H-3	4.35
	H-4	3.85	H-4	4.06
	H-5	4.17	H-5	4.31
	H-6a	4.11	H-6	1.56
	H-6b	4.49		
Gal	H-1	5.90		
	H-2	4.47		
	H-3	4.28		
	H-4	4.21		
	H-5	4.08		
	H-6a	4.02		
	H-6b	3.97		

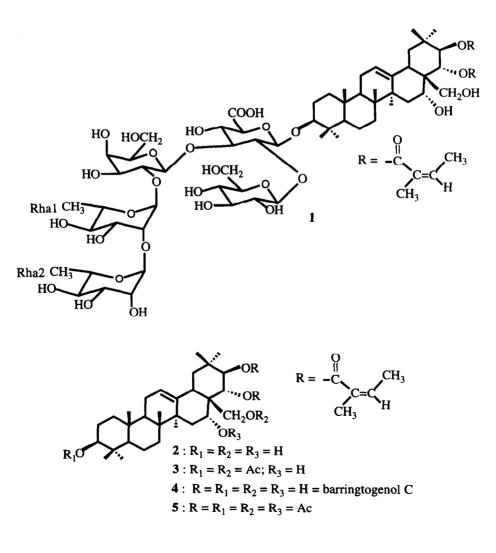
experiment showed, inter alia, coupling between genin C-3 (δ 90.9) and glucuronic H-1 (δ 4.83). The ¹H NMR signals of glucuronic H-2 and H-3 at δ 4.58 and 4.75 were directly correlated with the ¹³C NMR peaks at δ 79.8 and 82.4, implying glycosidic substitutions at these positions. This was confirmed by long-range correlations between the ¹H NMR resonances at δ 4.58 and 4.75 and the anomeric ¹³C NMR signals of glucose $(\delta 103.1)$ and of galactose $(\delta 101.2)$. Similar longrange correlations were also observed between galactose H-2 (δ 4.47) and rhamnose C-1 (δ 101.5), rhamnose H-2 (δ 4.64) and terminal rhamnose C-1 $(\delta 103.9)$, respectively. The ROESY experiment showed cross-peaks defining interglycosidic linkages. Besides providing sequencing information, the ROESY experiment showed correlations between H-1 and H-5 of glucose and of galactose, thus pointing to β -Dconfigurations for these sugars. The structure of 1 was then deduced as 3-O-{[(α -L-rhamnospyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 2)- α - L - rhamnopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 2) - β - D - galactopyranosyl - $(1 \rightarrow 3)$] - [β - D - glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow 2$)] - β - D glucuronopyranosyl}barringtogenol C21, 22-O-diangeloate.

Barringtonia spp. have been known to be toxic to fish because of the presence of barringtogenol related sapogenins and saponins [8, 9]. Similar compounds have also been found in some other plant genera, e.g. Aesculus [10–16], Pittosporum [17, 18], Eryngium [19–21], Thea [22–24], Camellia [25, 26] and Petersianthus [27]. Only a few of these sapogenins and their glycosides have been biologically investigated. For example, sapogenols from A. hippocastanum have been reported to have cytotoxic activity [12]. Two barringtogenol C saponins from Petersianthus macrocarpus were shown to have potential in stimulating hormone production in cultivated rat hypophysis cells [27]. In addition to having piscicidal activity the saponin fraction of the leaves of M. ramentacea also showed antifungal activity [28]. The present work thus extends the list of biologically active barringtogenol C saponins.

EXPERIMENTAL

Unless otherwise stated, microanalyses were carried out by the School of Chemistry, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Mps: micro mp apparatus. IR spectra: Perkin-Elmer 1600 FTIR spectrophotometer. ¹H NMR spectra of CDCl₃ and pyridine d_5 solns: Bruker AMX 400 (400 MHz) and Bruker AMX 600 (600 MHz) spectrometers with TMS as int. standard. ¹³C NMR spectra of pyridine- d_5 solns: 150.92 MHz; multiplicities were determined by DEPT experiments. Negative ion FAB MS: glycerol as the matrix. Optical rotations: Perkin-Elmer 241 digital polarimeter. TLC: precoated silica gel 60 F254 (Merck); spots were detected by spraying with 1% CeSO₄ in 10% aq. H₂SO₄ followed by heating. CC: silica gel (70-230 mesh, Merck) and silanized silica gel (RP18, 40-60 µm). Analyt. HPLC: Waters LC consisting of a 6000A pump, U6K injector, 450 nm variable wavelength UV detector and R401 RI detector, with a Zorbax ODS column (5 μ m, 0.46 \times 25 cm, Dupont) and MeOH-H₂O-HOAc (75:25:0.2) at a flow rate of 0.8 ml min⁻¹. Prep. HPLC: Waters LC consisting of a 510EF pump, U6K injector, 481 nm variable wavelength UV detector and R403 RI detector, using a Zorbax ODS column (8 μ m, 2.12 × 25 cm, Dupont) and MeOH-H,O-HOAc (75:25:0.2) at a flow rate of 11.25 ml min⁻¹. Silylated sugars were analysed by GC on a Hewlett-Packard 5890A instrument equipped with a split/splitless capillary injector and FID, using a SGE 25QC2/BP5 column (25 m \times 0.22 mm), film thickness $0.25 \ \mu$ m, carrier gas He, inlet pressure 110 kPa, injection and detection temp. 270°, temp. programmed from 60 to 300° at 10° min⁻¹.

Extraction and isolation. Milled dry leaves of M. ramentacea (420 g) was blended with H₂O (41) and warmed. After filtration, the filtrate was extracted with *n*-BuOH and the extract evapd to give a brown powder (40 g). A portion of the *n*-BuOH extract (30 g) was subjected to CC on silica gel (1.5 kg) using CH₂Cl₂-



MeOH-H₂O (7:3:1; 6:4:1) as eluent to give a crude saponin fr. as a brown solid (11.7 g). The crude saponin (6.0 g) was purified by CC over silanized silica gel, gradiently eluted with MeOH-H₂O (1:1; 3:2; 7:3) to give a single spot (TLC) saponin fr. (2.4 g). Purification of this fr. (1.48 g) by RP HPLC gave 1 (135 mg) as a powder, mp 255-260°. $[\alpha]_{\rm D} - 43.3^{\circ}$ (c 1.0, pyridine). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm Nujol}$ cm⁻¹: 3380, 2940, 2847, 1720, 1462, 1377, 1082, 1042. FAB MS *m*/*z* (rel. int.): 1445 [M-H]⁻ (100%), 1299 [M-H-146]⁻ (24), 1283 [M-H-162]⁻ (17), 1153 [M-H-146-146] - (30), 991 [M-H-146-146-162]⁻ (80), 829 [M-H-146-146-162]⁻ (21), 653 [M-H-146-146-162] - (146-162-162]^- (7).

Acid hydrolysis of saponin A (1). A soln of 1 (251 mg) in 10% aq. HCl (20 ml) was refluxed for 4 hr. The mixt, was cooled and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with H₂O, dried (Na₂SO₄) and evapd to give a brown solid (104 mg). The product was purified by CC silica gel using CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (50:1) to give $[3\beta, 16\alpha, 21\beta(Z), 22\alpha(Z)]$ olean-12-ene-3, 16, 21, 22, 28-pentol 21, 22-bis(2-methyl-2butenoate) (21,22-O-diangeloylbarringtogenol C) (2) (59 mg) as a slightly yellow solid which was crystallized from MeOH as needles (31 mg), mp 266-268° (lit. [13] 244°). $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ + 3.5° (c, 0.68, CHCl₃). IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm nujol}$ cm⁻¹: 3414, 1720, 1703, 1650, 1461, 1378, 1234, 1168. ¹H NMR (CDCl₂): δ 0.79, 0.90, 0.92, 0.94, 1.00, 1.09, 1.45 (3H each, all s, $7 \times Me$), 1.82 (6H, br t, J = 1.5 Hz, 2 × Me-C=CH), 1.92 (3H, dd, J = 1.5, 7.0 Hz, Me-CH=C), 1.96 (3H, dd, J = 1.5, 7.0 Hz, MeCH=C), 2.57 (1H, t, J = 14.0 Hz, H-19), 2.72 (1H, dd, J = 4.0, 14.0 Hz, H-18), 2.89 (1H, d, J = 12.0 Hz, H-28), 3.22 (1H, dd, J = 4.5, 11.0 Hz, H-3), 3.27 (1H, d, J = 12.0 Hz, H-28), 3.93 (1H, br s, H-16), 5.41 (1H, d, J = 10.5 Hz, H-22), 5.46 (1H, t, J = 4.0 Hz, H-12),5.85 (1H, d, J = 10.5 Hz, H-21), 6.01 (1H, dq, J = 1.5, 7.0 Hz, C=CH-Me), 6.11 (1H, dq, J = 1.5, 7.0 Hz, C=CH-Me). MS m/z (rel. int.): 654 (0.03), 636 (0.14), 554 (0.5), 536 (0.65), 506 (0.3), 491 (0.8), 454 (1), 446 (0.3), 428 (0.2), 346 (1.8), 207 (13), 189 (5), 83 (100).

 $[3\beta,16\alpha,21\beta(Z),22\alpha(Z)]$ - Olean - 12 - ene -3,16,21,22,28 - pentol 3,28-diacetate 21,22-bis(2-methyl-2-butenoate) (3). A soln of 2 (21 mg) in pyridine (1.0 ml) and Ac₂O (1.0 ml) was stirred at room temp. Overnight. The mixt. was poured on to crushed ice and extracted with CH₂Cl₂, the crude product was purified by PLC with petrol-EtOAc (17:3) as mobile phase and the chromatogram was developed $2\times$. The diacetate (16 mg) was crystallized from MeOH-H₂O as needles (12 mg), mp 191–193° (lit. [13] 190°). $[\alpha]_{\rm D} + 25.6^{\circ} (c,$ 0.43, CHCl₃). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{nujol}}$ cm⁻¹: 3483, 1719, 1416, 1377, 1242. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.86, 0.88, 0.89, 0.92, 0.96, 1.09, 1.45 (3H, each, all s, $7 \times Me$), 1.83 (6H, br s, $2 \times Me-C=CH$), 1.93 (6H, dq, J = 1.5, 7.0 Hz, $2 \times$ Me-CH=C), 2.03 (3H, s, Ac), 2.05 (3H, s, Ac), 2.50 (1H, dd, J = 3.5, 13.5 Hz, H18), 2.60 (1H, t, J =13.5 Hz, H-19), 3.68 (1H, d, J = 11.5 Hz, H-28), 3.72 (1H, d, J = 11.5 Hz, H-28), 4.24 (1H, br s, H-16), 4.50 (1H, m, H-3), 5.38 (1H, t, J = 3.5 Hz, H12), 5.58 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz, H-22), 5.71 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz, H-21), 5.99 (1H, dq, J = 1.5, 7.0 Hz, C=CH-Me), 6.04 (1H, dq, J = 1.5, 7.0 Hz, C=CH-Me). MS m/z (rel. int.): 738 (0.11), 720 (0.19), 678 (0.28), 638 (0.27), 488 (0.2), 470 (3.4), 388 (2), 370 (0.2), 249 (4), 83 (100).

Alkaline hydrolysis of 21,22-O-diangeloylbarringtogenol C (2). Compound 2 (91 mg) in a satd soln of K_2CO_3 in MeOH (5 ml) was refluxed for 2 hr. The mixt. was evapd, diluted with H₂O and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with H₂O, dried (Na_2SO_4) and evapd to give a yellow residue. CH_2Cl_2 (2 ml) was added to the residue; the solid which formed (25 mg) was collected. Crystallization of the product from MeOH gave barringtogenol C (4) (18 mg) as needles, mp 288–293° (lit. [24] 278–284°). $[\alpha]_{\rm D} + 4.0^{\circ}$ (c, 0.50, pyridine) (lit. [24] + 11.0°). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{nujol}}$ cm⁻¹: 3347, 1460, 1377. ¹H NMR (pyridine- d_{ϵ}); δ 0.97, 0.98, 1.06, 1.24, 1.34, 1.39, 1.86 (21H, all s, 7 × Me), 2.81 (1H, dd, J = 4.0, 14.0 Hz, H-18), 3.05 (1H, t, J =14.0 Hz, H-19), 3.47 (1H, m, H-3), 3.74 (1H, d, J =10.0 Hz, H28), 4.04 (1H, dd, J = 4.0, 10.0 Hz, H-28), 4.63 (1H, d, J = 9.5 Hz, H-22), 4.78 (1H, d, J =9.5 Hz, H-21), 5.05 (1H, br s, H-16), 5.45 (1H, br t, J = 3.5 Hz, H-12). MS m/z (rel. int.): 490 (2.2%), 472 (1.8), 454 (4.4), 282 (30), 264 (34), 246 (52), 215 (100), 207 (52), 189 (24).

 $[3\beta, 16\alpha, 21\beta, 22\alpha] - Olean - 12 - ene - 3, 16, 21, 22, 28$ pentol 3,16,21,22,28-pentaacetate (barringtogenol C pentaacetate) (5). A soln of 4 (36 mg) and a catalytic amount of p-toluenesulphonic acid in Ac₂O (1.0 ml) was stirred at room temp. overnight. The mixt. was poured on to crushed ice and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed with aq. NaHCO₃ and H_2O , dried (Na₂SO₄) and evapl to dryness. The crude product was purified on a silica gel column with petrol-EtOAc (4:1,3:2) to give 5 (41 mg). The product was crystallized from MeOH-H₂O as needles (32 mg), mp 146–148° (lit. [24] 147–150°). $[\alpha]_{\rm D} = 12.9^{\circ}$ (c, 0.45, CHCl₃) (lit. [24] – 10°). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{nujol}}$ cm⁻¹: 1742, 1461, 1376, 1288, 1252. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.86, 0.87, 0.89, 0.91, 0.95, 1.05, 1.30 (21H, all s, $7 \times Me$), 1.95, 2.01, 2.05, 2.06, 2.26 (15H, all s, $5 \times Ac$), 2.40 (1H, t, J = 13.5 Hz, H-19), 2.48 (1H, dd, J = 3.5, 13.5 Hz, H-18), 3.75 (2H, 3, 2 × H-28), 4.50 (1H, m, H-3), 5.24 (1H, br s, H-16), 5.31 (1H, t, J = 10.0 Hz, H-22), 5.33(1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz, H-21), 5.41 (1H, t, J = 3.0 Hz,H-12). MS m/z (rel. int.): 700 (0.1), 640 (9), 580 (3.4), 520 (4), 507 (1.2), 478 (1.2), 460 (1.2), 447 (2.8), 390 (36), 270 (19), 249 (14), 231 (2), 215 (30), 197 (34), 190 (52), 43 (100).

Acknowledgements—The work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada. We are also grateful for assistance from the Chemistry of Biologically Important Natural Products, an activity of the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges supported by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau.

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