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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 298\text{ K}$   
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.009\text{ \AA}$   
 $R$  factor = 0.056  
 $wR$  factor = 0.192  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 8.9For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.

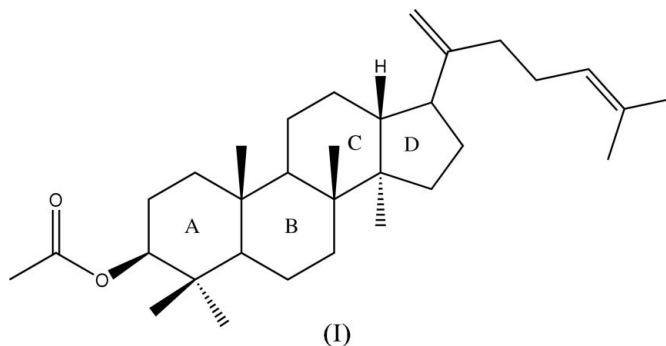
## Dammaradienyl acetate

The title compound [systematic name: 4,4,8,10,14-pentamethyl-17-(6-methylhepta-1,5-dien-2-yl)hexadecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-3-yl acetate],  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_2$ , contains a fused four-ring system. All three six-membered rings adopt chair conformations and the five-membered ring is twisted. The *A/B*, *B/C* and *C/D* ring junctions are all *trans*-fused. A chain running along the *b* axis is formed *via*  $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds, and translation of the chain along the *a* and *c* axes generates the three-dimensional structure.

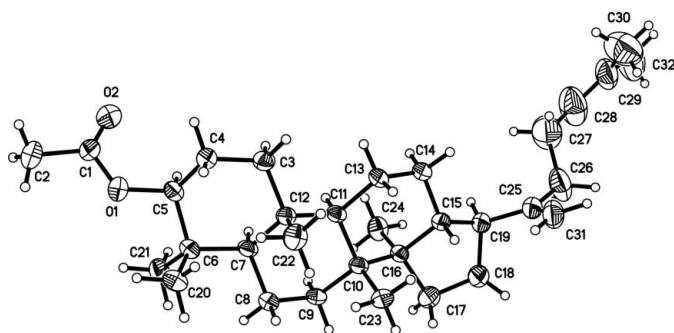
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## Comment

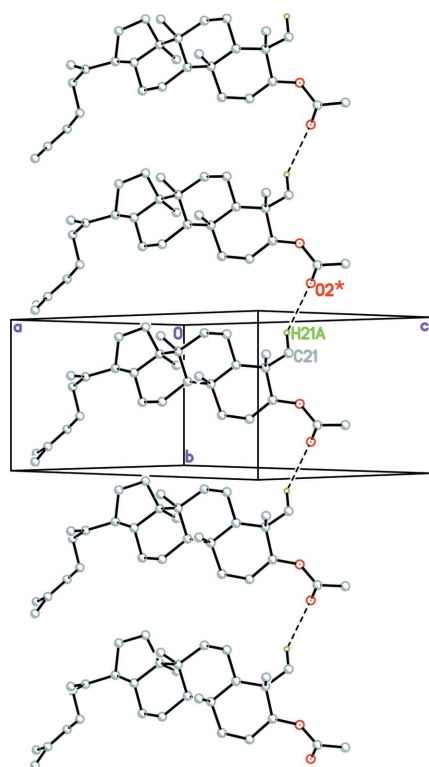
The title compound dammaradienyl acetate, (I), was originally isolated from the Indian plant *Commelina undulata*, which was shown to possess anticancer activity against lymphoid leukaemia in mice (PS 388) in the screening programme of the US National Institutes of Health (Sharma & Tandon, 1982). We have now isolated this compound from *Inula nervosa*. Here, the crystal structure of (I) is reported.



The skeleton of (I) is composed of a fused four-ring system, including three six-membered rings, *A* (C3–C7/C12), *B* (C7–C12) and *C* (C10–C16), and a five-membered ring, *D* (C15–C19). All the junctions are *trans*-fused, as indicated by their torsion angles (Table 1), which is similar to what is observed in 1-acetyl-24-*epi*-polacandrin (Simirgiotis *et al.*, 2003). All three six-membered rings, *A*, *B* and *C*, adopt chair conformations, as shown by their puckering parameters (Cremer & Pople, 1975) [ $q_2 = 0.039$  (5),  $q_3 = 0.553$  (5),  $Q = 0.554$  (5)  $\text{\AA}$ ,  $\theta = 4.4$  (5) and  $\varphi = 70$  (8) $^\circ$  for ring *A*;  $q_2 = 0.083$  (5),  $q_3 = 0.564$  (5),  $Q = 0.570$  (5)  $\text{\AA}$ ,  $\theta = 8.4$  (5) and  $\varphi = 5$  (3) $^\circ$  for ring *B*;  $q_2 = 0.071$  (5),  $q_3 = 0.585$  (5),  $Q = 0.589$  (5)  $\text{\AA}$ ,  $\theta = 6.9$  (5) and  $\varphi = 311$  (4) $^\circ$  for ring *C*. The value for  $\delta$  of 704.2 $^\circ$  suggests that ring *D* is twisted about the C15–C16 bond [ $\delta = 2P$  (Altona *et al.* 1968),  $P = 352.1$  (4),  $\tau(M) = 44.0$  (3) for reference bond C15–C16, where  $P$  and  $\tau(M)$  are the pseudorotation parameters (Rao *et al.*, 1981)]. The acetyloxy group and the chain are equatorially



**Figure 1**  
The molecular structure of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.



**Figure 2**  
Part of the crystal structure of (I). Intermolecular C—H...O interactions are marked as dashed lines.

attached to rings *A* and *D*, respectively. The methyl groups C22, C23 and C24 are axially attached to rings *B* and *C*.

The hydrogen bond C21—H21A...O2<sup>i</sup> links the molecules of (I) into a chain running along the *b* axis [C21...O2 = 3.432 (8) Å, H21A...O2 = 2.57 Å and C21—H21A...O2 = 149°; symmetry code: (i) *x*, *y* − 1, *z*; Fig. 2].

## Experimental

The dried powdered herb *Inula nervosa* Wall. (14.8 kg) was extracted three times with hot ethanol (50 l × 3). The extract was evaporated under reduced pressure to yield a dark-green mass. This was treated with petroleum ether, chloroform and ethyl acetate. The petroleum ether fraction was chromatographed on a silica-gel column. The

compound eluted with petroleum ether–ethyl acetate (10:1) crystallized from chloroform as needles (m.p. 422 K). Spectroscopic analysis: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, p.p.m.): 5.13 (1 H, *t sept*, *J* = 1.4 and 7.0 Hz, H24), 4.74 (1 H, *s*, H21), 4.70 (1 H, *s*, *J* = 1.5 Hz, H21), 4.49 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 5.5 and 11.3 Hz, H3), 2.04, 1.63, 1.61 (each 3 H, *s*, −COCH<sub>3</sub>, H26 and H27), 0.98, 0.88, 0.87, 0.86, 0.85 (each 3 H, *s*), 0.83 (1 H, *m*, H5); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ, p.p.m.): 170.9 (−COCH<sub>3</sub>), 152.7 (C20), 131.3 (C25), 124.5 (C24), 107.5 (C21), 80.9 (C3), 55.9 (C5), 50.9 (C9), 49.4 (C14), 47.8 (C17), 45.3 (C13), 40.5 (C8), 38.8 (C22), 37.9 (C4), 37.1 (C10), 35.4 (C7), 34.2 (C1), 31.4 (C15), 28.9 (C23), 27.9 (C28), 27.1 (C2), 25.7 (C26), 24.9 (C16), 23.7 (C2), 21.4 (C11), 21.3 (−COCH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (C6), 17.7 (C27), 16.5 (C30), 16.3 (C19), 15.9 (C18), 15.6 (C29). Crystals of (I) suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained from a chloroform solution by slow evaporation at room temperature.

## Crystal data

C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
*M*<sub>r</sub> = 468.74  
Monoclinic, *P*<sub>2</sub><sub>1</sub>  
*a* = 11.660 (4) Å  
*b* = 7.400 (3) Å  
*c* = 16.632 (6) Å  
*β* = 91.654 (6)°  
*V* = 1434.5 (9) Å<sup>3</sup>

*Z* = 2  
*D*<sub>x</sub> = 1.085 Mg m<sup>−3</sup>  
Mo *K*α radiation  
*μ* = 0.07 mm<sup>−1</sup>  
*T* = 298 (2) K  
Prism, colourless  
0.58 × 0.41 × 0.19 mm

## Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer  
*φ* and *ω* scans  
Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 2000)  
*T*<sub>min</sub> = 0.963, *T*<sub>max</sub> = 0.988

7593 measured reflections  
2735 independent reflections  
1529 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.052  
*θ*<sub>max</sub> = 25.0°

## Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R* [*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.056  
*wR* (*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.192  
*S* = 1.00  
2735 reflections  
307 parameters

H-atom parameters constrained  
*w* = 1/[σ<sup>2</sup>(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>) + (0.1093*P*)<sup>2</sup>]  
where *P* = (*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> + 2*F*<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)/3  
(Δσ)<sub>max</sub> < 0.001  
Δρ<sub>max</sub> = 0.20 e Å<sup>−3</sup>  
Δρ<sub>min</sub> = −0.20 e Å<sup>−3</sup>

**Table 1**

Selected torsion angles (°).

C9—C10—C11—C13	−176.9 (3)	C8—C7—C12—C3	174.7 (4)
C23—C10—C11—C13	65.1 (5)	C6—C7—C12—C3	−51.5 (5)
C16—C10—C11—C13	−56.1 (4)	C8—C7—C12—C22	−65.8 (5)

The methyl H atoms were constrained to an ideal geometry, with C—H = 0.96 Å and *U*<sub>iso</sub>(H) = 1.5*U*<sub>eq</sub>(C), but were allowed to rotate freely about the C—C bonds. All remaining H atoms were placed in geometrically idealized positions (C—H = 0.93–0.97 Å) and constrained to ride on their parent atoms, with *U*<sub>iso</sub>(H) = 1.2*U*<sub>eq</sub>(C). In the absence of any significant anomalous scattering, Friedel pairs were merged during the final refinement and the absolute configuration is unknown.

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2000); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL* and *PLATON* (Spek, 2003).

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