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Chaetochromin, a Bis(naphthodihydropyran-4-one) Mycotoxin from *Chaetomium thielavioideum*: Application of ¹³C-¹H Long-rang Coupling to the Structure Elucidation

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Details of the separation of the metabolites (I—V) of *Chaetomium thielavioideum* are presented. The structure of a new mycotoxin named chaetochromin was studied by physical method (ultraviolet, infrared, ¹H- and ¹³C-nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), and mass spectrum) and it was identified as the bis(naphthodihydropyran-4-one (II). The assignment of the ¹³C-NMR signals was largely achieved with the aid of the two- and three-bond spin-spin couplings between ¹³C and ¹H.

Keywords—*Chaetomium thielavioideum*; chaetochromin; bis(naphthodihydropyran-4-one); mycotoxin; cytotoxicity; mutagenicity; ¹H-NMR; ¹³C-NMR; ¹³C-N

During the course of surveys on mycotoxin production by *Chaetomium* spp. and related fungi (Pyrenomycetes), strains identified as *C. thielavioideum* Chen were found to exhibit strong cytotoxicity.²⁾ As the causative agents, chaetocin (I) [an antibiotic substance first isolated from *C. minutum* Krzemieniewska and Badura³⁾], a new phenolic compound (II) of mp 222—224°, sterigmatocystin (III) [a well-known carcinogenic mycotoxin⁴⁾], and its *O*-methyl ether (IV)⁵⁾ were isolated.²⁾

This paper presents the experimental details of the separation of the metabolites from one strain (NHL 2829) of the species isolated from soil obtained from Thailand, and describes the structural elucidation of the new phenolic mycotoxin (II).

Chromatographic separation of dichloromethane and methanol extracts of the fungal culture on polished rice grains afforded the metabolites (I—IV), ergosterol, eugenitin (V) [a chromone derivative first isolated from Eugenia caryophyllata Thunb. (Myrtaceae)⁶⁾ and then from the lichen fungal symbiont of Lecanora rupicola Zahlbb.⁷⁾ and a fungus, Cylindrocarpon sp.⁸⁾], and anthranilic acid.⁹⁾ As shown in Table I, cytotoxicity to HeLa cells was observed in the cases of chaetocin (I), the new phenolic compound (II), and sterigmatocystin (III) among the isolated metabolites,²⁾ while mutagenicity in the Salmonella/microsome test was seen only with III and the methyl ether (IV).¹⁰⁾ Acute toxicity tests with mice showed that chaetocin (I) and the new phenolic (II) are lethal at the level of 10 mg/kg upon intraperitonial administration.¹¹⁾ Thus the mold is quite noteworthy in that it produces a variety of cytotoxic, mutagenic, and acutely toxic substances.

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Table I. Cytotoxicity²⁾ and Mutagenicity¹⁰⁾ of the Metabolites of Chaetomium thielavioideum

	Cytotoxicity to HeLa Cells ^{a)}						Mutagenicity in Salmonella typhimurium ^{b)}					
Compound	100	32	10	3.2 (µg/		0.32	0.1	0.032	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{TA100} \\ - \overline{S-9} + \overline{S-9} - \overline{S} \end{array} $		$\overbrace{S-9 + S-9}^{TA98}$	
Chaetocin (I)	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	1				
Chaetochromin (II)	4	4	4	3.5	0							
Sterigmatocystin (III)	4	4	4	4	2	0			8	650	3	54
O-Methylsterigmatocystin (IV)	4	4	2	1	0				22	565		34
Eugenitin (V)	0	0	0	0	0				-			

a) The degree of toxicity is estimated on a scale ranging from 0 (no cellular damage) through 4 (complete cytolysis); see Ref. 2).

The structure elucidation of the new phenolic mycotoxin (II), designated chaetochromin in view of the proposed structure, will be discussed next, chiefly on the basis of the nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectral data.

Chaetochromin (II), yellow needles of mp 222—224°, $[\alpha]_D + 634^\circ$ (in CHCl₃), M+ 546.154 m/e (C₃₀H₂₆O₁₀, by high resolution mass spectrometry), showed λ_{max}^{MeOH} 235, 280, 292, 328 and 415 nm, similar to that of 4,5,4′,5′-tetrahydroxy-1, 1′-dinaphthyl, ¹²⁾ and ν_{max}^{KDT} 3400 (broad,

b) Number of revertant colonies per μg of the metabolite. Spontaneous revertant colonies were not included.

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TABLE II.	${}^{1}\text{H-NMR}$ Chemical Shifts (δ) and Coupling Constants
	(Hz) of Chaetochromin (in CDCl ₃)

		Remarks
2-CH ₃	1.40, 3H, d, $J=6$	<i>a</i>)
2-H	4.16, 1H, dq, J=11, 6	<i>a</i>)
$3-CH_3$	1.23, 3H, d, $J = 7$	<i>b</i>)
3-H	2.59, 1H, dq, J = 11, 7	<i>b</i>)
5-OH	15.20, 1H, s	
6-OH	9.57, 1H, s	
7-H	6.44, 1H, s	c)
8-OH	5.83, 1H, s	c)
10-H	5.95, 1H, s	

a, b) The coupling was confirmed by decoupling experiments.

chelated and non-chelated hydroxyls), 1630 (strong absorption, hydrogen-bonded carbonyl groups), 1610, and 1582 (aromatic rings) cm⁻¹. Its ¹H-NMR spectrum showed only 13 protons and the ¹³C-NMR showed 15 carbons (Tables II and III, respectively). The observations suggest that chaetochromin is a symmetric dimer of hydroxynaphthalene. Among the three hydroxy groups in the half of the molecule, one (δ 15.20 ppm) is strongly hydrogen-bonded to the carbonvl group ($\eta_{\rm max}^{\rm max}$ 1630 cm⁻¹), while the second (δ 9.57 ppm) is also chelated and the third (δ 5.83 ppm) appears to be almost free from hydrogen-bonding. The ¹H-NMR spectrum also showed the presence of two secondary methyl groups, which are adjacent to each other. This was confirmed by decouplings of the methyl and methine protons; the methyl group at δ 1.40 ppm and the methin group at δ 4.16 ppm form a secondary methyl group and are adjacent to an oxygen function. The other methyl group at δ 1.23 ppm and the methine group at δ 2.59 ppm are adjacent to an aromatic ring or a carbonyl group (Table II). These observations suggested that chaetochromin has a 2,3-dimethyldihydropyran-4-one moiety or a 3,4-dimethyldihydropyran-2-one moiety. The two signals due to the aromatic protons (δ 5.95 and 6.44 ppm) are not coupled; a high field shift of the former proton is noticeable. The nuclear Overhauser effect is observed between the non-chelated hydroxyl proton and the aromatic proton at δ 6.44 ppm (Table II).

The ¹³C-NMR spectrum showed the signals of one carbonyl carbon, two aromatic carbons bonded to a hydrogen, eight quaternary aromatic carbons, among which four are assumed to be bonded to oxygen functions, and two each of methyl and methine carbons in one half of the molecule (Fig. 1 and Table III). The presence of four aromatic carbon atoms bearing oxygen functions favours a dihydropyran-4-one moiety rather than a dihydropyran-2-one moiety in the molecule. These considerations lead to a symmetric tetramethylhexahydroxybis(naphthodihydropyran-4-one) structure for chaetochromin. However, at this stage it was not clear whether chaetochromin has a linear fusion between the naphthalene and pyran-4-one moieties similar to that in ustilaginoidins (VI)¹³⁾ and cepharochromin (VII),^{14,15)} in which the fusion and the position of the dimeric linkage were established by synthetic and correlation reactions, or an angular fusion similar to that in flavasperone (VIII)¹⁶⁾ ((a), (b), or (c) in Chart 1),

c) Irradiation at 8-OH caused a nuclear Overhauser effect at 7-H ($8\pm3\%$).

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Table III. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ Chemical Shifts (3) and $^{13}\text{C-}^{1}\text{H}$ Coupling Constants (Hz) of Chaetochromin

Solvent								
Carbon atom	$\overbrace{\delta^{a)}}^{ ext{Acetone-}d_6}$	(1) J (C, H) Hz	² <i>J</i> (C, H and C, OH) Hz	³ <i>J</i> (C, H and C, OH) Hz	$egin{array}{l} ext{Acetone-}d_{6} \ + ext{D}_{2} ext{O} \ \delta^{a)} \end{array}$	CDCl ₃ (3)	(1) (3) $\Delta \delta$	$\overset{(2)}{_{\varDelta\delta}}(1)$
2	79.1 (Dm)	141.6 (2-H)	ca. 3.0 (2-CH ₃)		79.3 (Dm)	78.3	0.8	0.2
3	46.7 (Dm)	127.0 (3-H)	$\frac{4.3}{(3-CH_3)}$		47.2 (Dm)	46.2	0.5	0.5
4	201.9 (S)				202.0 (S)	200.8	1.1	0.1
4a	102.3 (Sdd)			ca. 5.0 (5-OH) 5.5 (10-H)	102.5 (Sd)	102.0	0.3	0.2
5	165.5 (br. S)				165.0 (br. S)	164.3	1.2	-0.5
5a	105.7 (Sm)			nd ^{b)} (5-OH) nd (6-OH) 5.8 (7-H) 5.8 (10-H)	105.5 (Sdd)	105.4	0.3	-0.2
6	160.8°) (Sdd)		3.9 (6-OH) 3.7 (7-H)	(10 11)	160.5°) (Sd)	159.9	0.9	-0.3
7	100.9 (Ddd)	160.5 (7-H)	,	$6.0^{c)} \ (6-{ m OH}) \ 7.0^{c)} \ (8-{ m OH})$	100.6 (D)	100.0	0.9	-0.3
8	(Sdd)		ca. 3.0 (8-OH) 3.1 (7-H)	`	(Sd)	160.4	1.2	0
9	106.4 (Sm)		,	4.3 (7-H) 4.8 (8-OH) 4.3 (10-H)	107.6 (Sdd)	102.2	4.2	1.2
9a	143.3 (S)			,	143.3 (S)	142.1	1.2	0
10	100.1 (D)	162.4 (10-H)			100.1 (D)	99.4	0.7	0
10a	156.5 (Sd)			$^{3.7}_{(2-H)}$	156.6 (Sd)	156.2	0.3	0.1
2-CH_3	19.8 (Qm)	$127.0 \ (2-CH_3)$	3.1 (2-H)	1.8 (3-H)	20.2 (Qm)	19.7	0.1	0.4
3-CH ₃	10.0 (Qd)	126.0 (3-CH ₃)	4.3 (3-H)		10.5 (Qd)	9.8	0.2	0.5

 $[\]alpha$) br=broad, D and d=doublet, m=multiplet, S and s=singlet, Q=quartet. Capital letters refer to the pattern resulting from directly bonded 13 C- 1 H couplings and small letters to that from 13 C- 1 H couplings over more than one bond.

b) nd=not detected.

c) May be interchanged.

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and it was also unclear whether the substitution pattern of the non-chelated hydroxyl groups and the dimeric linkage on the aromatic ring A is (d), (e), or (f) in Chart 1.

¹³C-NMR spectroscopy is a powerful tool in studying the structures of a great variety of complex aromatic compounds. In aromatic systems the long-range couplings between ¹³C and ¹H are usually in the order ${}^{1}J\gg^{3}J>^{2}J>^{4}J$ and the full utilization of these couplings has recently been shown to be the most useful approach to making signal assignments for such compounds.¹⁷⁻¹⁹⁾ Applying this method, the structures of xanthomegnin and the related fungal pigments, dimeric naphthodihydropyran-2-ones, were revised to the linear forms from the previously suggested angular structures.¹⁷⁾ Thus, precise examination of the ¹³C-NMR spectrum of chaetochromin was attempted. The assignments were derived from proton noise decouplings (Fig. 1), gated decouplings (Fig. 2), D₂O addition (Fig. 2), and long-range selective proton decouplings (Fig. 3). Addition of D₂O affected not only the three signals of hydroxylsubstituted carbons (C-5, C-6, and C-8) but also the signals at δ 100.9 ppm, δ 105.7 ppm and δ 106.4 ppm (Fig. 2). The doublet of doublets at δ 100.9 ppm changed to a doublet, so that an aromatic carbon carrying a hydrogen exists between two carbons bearing hydroxyl groups on the aromatic ring A (C-7) (Chart 1). Both of the two aromatic protons in ¹H-NMR appear as singlets. Accordingly, the proton on the ring carbon must be ortho, the free hydroxyl group must be meta, and the dimeric bonding site must be para to the weakly hydrogenbonded hydroxyl group (C_6 -OH). On the other hand, the signal at δ 100.1 ppm of the other

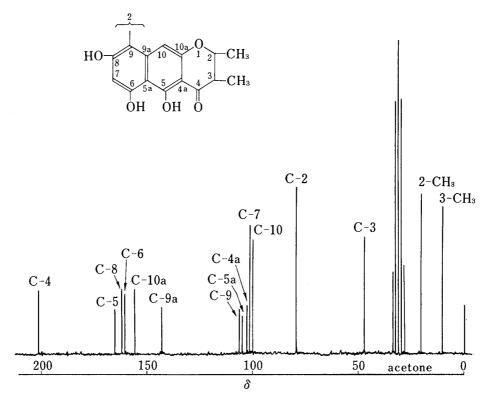


Fig. 1. The Proton-noise-decoupled $^{13}\mathrm{C\textsc{-}NMR}$ Spectrum of Chaetochromin in $\mathrm{CD_3COCD_3}$

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aromatic carbon bearing hydrogen is coupled only with the directly bonded proton and is not affected by the phenolic protons. If chaetochromin has an angular fusion as shown by (b) or (c) in Chart 1, the signal at δ 100.1 ppm must exhibit a three-bond coupling of one hydroxyl group. Thus, an angular fusion of rings B and C was excluded and the carbon was assigned to C-10 in ring B of the linear form (a) in Chart 1. The multiplet signals at δ 106.4 ppm and δ 105.7 ppm changed to double doublets on D_2O addition, suggesting the carbons at threebonds from the exchangeable protons, i.e. C-9 and C-5a. The choice between the two was made as follows: When the solvent was changed from acetone- d_6 to CDCl₃, the signal at δ 106.4 ppm showed a high field shift ($\Delta \delta = 4.2$ ppm). Thus, this signal was assigned as C-9, where the two halves of the molecule are linked. Accordingly, the signal at δ 105.7 ppm was assigned to C-5a. The singlet signal at δ 143.3 ppm was assigned to C-9a, where there is no three-bond coupling between ¹³C-¹H (Fig. 2).

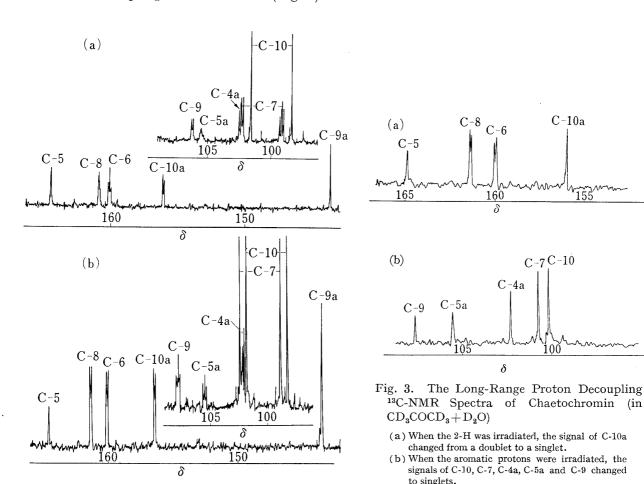


Fig. 2. The Aromatic Carbon Region of Chaetochromin in the Gated ¹H-Decoupling ¹³C-NMR Spectra

(a); in CD₃COCD₃. (b): after adding D2O.

When the proton at C-2 was irradiated, the doublet signal at δ 156.5 ppm changed to

brasiliense Camb.²⁰⁾ However, the selective proton decouplings at the C-2 and C-3 protons favored the *cis*-configuration of the 2,3-dimethyl groups, in contrast to the ¹H-NMR data, in which the C-2 and C-3 protons show a large coupling (J=11 Hz).

Based on these observations, especially the ¹³C-¹H long-range coupling data, the assignment of all the ¹³C atoms in the molecule of chaetochromin was established as shown in Table III. Based on these findings the structure (II) is put forward for chaetochromin. This structure (II) corresponds to the 3,3'-dimethyl derivative of cephalochromin (VII) from Cephalosporium sp., ^{14,21} Verticillium sp., ¹⁵ Nectria viridescens Booth, ²² and N. flavoviridis Wollenw. Studies to confirm the stereochemistry of the C-9 dimeric site and the dimethyl groups at the 2- and 3-positions are in progress.

Experimental

Melting points were measured on a Yanagimoto micro melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Ultraviolet (UV), infrared (IR), and $^1\text{H-}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra were measured with Hitachi 200-10, Nihon Bunko DS-403G, JEOL C-60HL (60 MHz) and Varian XL100A (100 MHz), and JEOL FX 200 (50.15 MHz) machines, respectively. Chemical shifts are shown in ppm from Me₄Si added as an internal standard. Mass spectra were measured on a JEOL 01SG-2 high resolution mass spectrometer. [α]_D were measured with a Nihon Bunko DIP-180 machine.

Isolation of Metabolites from Chaetomium thielavioideum——Strain NHL 2829 was incubated in stationary culture on sterilized rice (10 kg) at 30° for 14 days.²⁾ The moldy rice was extracted twice with dichloromethane (20 l) for 24 hr each at room temperature. After concentration to 50 ml in vacuo, the precipitates (compound A, 3.5 g) formed were separated by filtration. The mother liquor was applied to a silica gel column using benzene and benzene-dichloromethane as developing solvents. From the first fraction eluted with benzene, a mixture of compounds B and C was obtained. From the next fraction eluted with benzene, compound D (370 mg) was obtained. From the benzene-dichloromethane (1: 1) fraction, compound E (4.6 g) was obtained, and from the benzene-dichloromethane (1: 2) fraction, compound F (30 mg). The mixture of compounds B and C was separated by preparative thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on precoated PLC plates (Silica Gel F₂₅₄, 2 mm, Merck) using dichloromethane-methanol (9.5: 0.5) as the developing solvent. From the upper layer, compound B (1.7 g) was obtained and from the lower layer, compound C (5.7 g).

After extraction with dichloromethane, the moldy rice was extracted with methanol (20 l) for 24 hr at room temperature. The methanol extract was concentrated in vacuo and then extracted with ethyl acetate. After concentration, the ethyl acetate extract was dissolved in chloroform (100 ml) and the precipitates formed (ca. 200 mg) were separated by filtration. The mother liquor was applied to a silica gel column using dichloromethane as the developing solvent. From the first fraction, compound G (146 mg) was obtained. From the next fraction, compound E (10 mg) was obtained. The precipitates consisted largely of compound G

Chaetochromin (II)—Compound E was recrystallized from benzene as yellow needles, mp 222—224°, $[\alpha]_D$ +634° (c=1.0, CHCl₃), MS m/e: 546.154 (M+, Calcd for C₃₀H₂₆O₁₆: 546.152); UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtoH}}$ nm (log ε): 235 (4.64), 280 (4.67), 292 (4.73), 328 (4.18), 415 (4.02); IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3400, 1630, 1610, 1582, 1440, 1380, 1343, 1145, 1134, 1082, 840; ¹H-NMR (Table II); ¹³C-NMR (Table III).

Identification of Ergosterol, Eugenitin, Chaetocin, Sterigmatocystin, O-Methylsterigmatocystin, and Anthranilic Acid——Compound B was recrystallized from benzene as colorless needles of mp 156°, MS m/e: 396.342 (M+, Calcd for $C_{28}H_{46}O$: 396.340); UV λ_{max}^{EioH} nm (log ε): 262 (3.94), 271 (4.06), 281 (4.07), 292 (3.84); IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3400, 2950, 1650, 1460, 1370, 1060, 1040, 970, 838, 800. Its identity with an authentic sample of ergosterol was confirmed by IR and TLC.

Compound C was recrystallized from benzene as colorless needles, mp 160° (lit. mp 161—162°,6) mp 163—164°8), MS m/e: 220.0693 (M⁺, Calcd for $C_{12}H_{12}O_4$: 220.0734); UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EioH}}$ nm (log ε): 231 (4.25), 255 (broad, 4.21), 291 (3.98), 330 (shoulder); IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 1655, 1620, 1580, 1440, 1400, 1340, 1300, 1212, 1180, 1132, 960, 840; ¹H-NMR (in CDCl₃) δ : 2.07 (3H, s), 2.33 (3H, s), 3.89 (3H, s), 6.00 (1H, s), 6.32 (1H, s). Its identity with an authentic sample of eugenitin (V) was confirmed by IR and TLC.

Eugenitin (10 mg) was dissolved in acetic anhydride (1 ml) containing one drop of sulfuric acid. The solution was heated for 10 min on a water bath and poured into ice-water. The precipitates were collected, washed with water, dried and recrystallized from benzene, mp 172° (lit.8) mp 176—177°). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm⁻¹: 1753, 1648, 1609, 1445, 1380, 1362, 1340, 1215, 1122, 1080, 1040, 820.

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Compound A was recrystallized from methanol as colorless crystals of mp 238°, IR $v_{\rm max}^{\rm EioH}$ cm⁻¹: 3520, 3350 (br.), 1670 (br.), 1603, 1470, 1352, 1052, 762. Its identity with an authentic sample of chaetocin (I) was confirmed by IR and TLC.²)

Compound D was recrystallized from benzene as pale yellow needles of mp 241—243°, IR $\nu_{\rm max}^{\rm KBr}$ cm⁻¹: 3340 (br.), 1630 (br.), 1590, 1485, 1230, 1126, 1092, 1062, 974, 844, 824. Its identity with an authentic sample of sterigmatocystin (III) was established by IR and TLC.²⁾

Compound F was recrystallized from methanol as colorless needles of mp 272—273°, $[\alpha]_D$ – 327° $(c=1.0, CHCl_3)$, MS m/e: 338.072 (M+, Calcd for $C_{19}H_{14}O_6$: 338.076), IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 1644, 1619, 1593, 1473, 1277, 1100, 978, 813. Its identity with an authentic sample of O-methylsterigmatocystin (IV) was established by IR and TLC.^{2,23)}

Compound G was recrystallized from benzene as colorless needles of mp 142°. Anal. Calcd for $C_7H_7NO_2$: C, 61.31; H, 5.15; N, 10.21. Found: C, 61.14; H, 5.15; N, 10.55. UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{McOH}}$ nm (log ε): 214 (4.55), 246 (3.81), 330 (3.62); IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3470, 3370, 3000, 2850, 2640, 1660, 1605, 1585, 1555, 1480, 1412, 1298, 1240, 1160, 913, 750; MS m/e: 137 (M⁺). Its identity with an authentic sample of anthranilic acid was established by IR and TLC.

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²³⁾ The yield of O-methylsterigmatocystin (IV) depended on the incubation conditions; for example, when the strain (NHL 2827) was incubated at 23° for 3 weeks 435 mg/kg rice of the metabolite was produced, while at 30° for 2 weeks the yield was only 3 mg/kg rice.