

## Communications to the Editor

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THE STRUCTURES OF AH<sub>10</sub> AND AH<sub>11</sub>, NOBEL BI-PHENYLETHYLCHROMONES  
FROM AGALWOOD

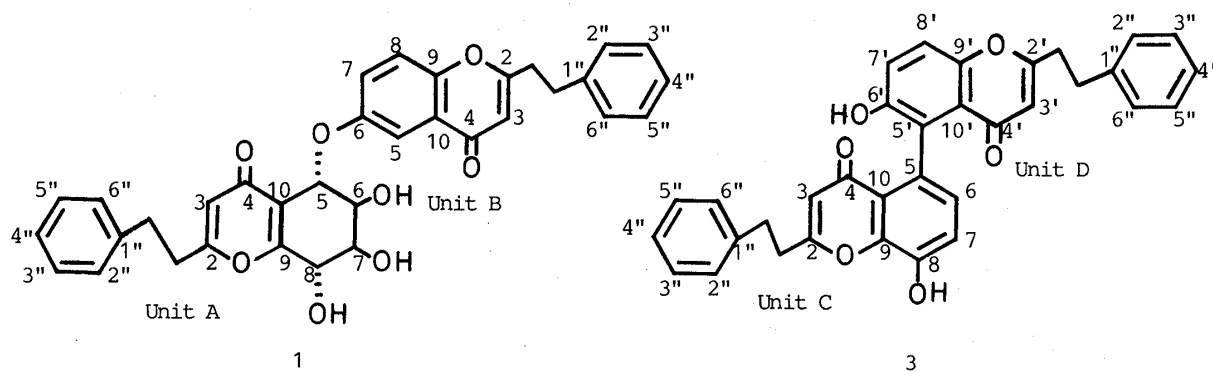
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New bi-2-(2-phenylethyl)chromones, tentatively named AH<sub>10</sub> and AH<sub>11</sub>  
were isolated from Agalwood "Jinkō" and their structures were determined.

KEYWORDS— bi-2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone; agalwood; Aquilariaceae;  
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR

New bi-phenylethylchromones, AH<sub>10</sub> and AH<sub>11</sub> were isolated from the acetone ex-  
tracts of agalwood "Jinkō" from Kalimantan, along with other related compounds.<sup>1)</sup>  
This paper describes the characterization of these structures.

AH<sub>10</sub> (**1**), a white powder (mp 110°C), [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> -127.7° (MeOH) showed a molecular ion  
at m/z 566 in the FD-MS giving the molecular formula C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. The IR (KBr) and UV  
(MeOH) spectra of **1** exhibited strong absorption maxima due to a γ-pyrone ring (1662,  
1639, 1610, and 1582 cm<sup>-1</sup>; 241 nm, ε=35818). The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  
showed the presence of one pair of proton signals at δ 6.16 and 6.22 (each s, 3-H)  
and two sets of phenylethyl groups, indicating the structure bi-2-(2-phenylethyl)-  
chromone derivative for **1**, considering the molecular weight. One unit of the dimer  
was considered to be agarotetrol<sup>2)</sup> on the basis of four methine proton signals in-  
dicating a hexenyl ring structure of 5/6 trans, 6/7 cis, and 7/8 trans in accor-  
dance with the vicinal coupling systems at δ 3.89, 4.27, 4.59, and 5.33 (Table I).  
The doublet signal of the methine proton at δ 5.33 should be assigned to 5-H because  
of the downfield position, considered to result from the bonding of the ether at C<sub>5</sub>  
to another monomeric unit. The assignment of 5-H is supported by the absence of the  
proton signal of 5-OH which should be found in a field lower than the other three  
hydroxylic protons at C<sub>6</sub>, C<sub>7</sub> and C<sub>8</sub>. This is because of the intramolecular bonding  
with 4-C=O as displayed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of agarotetrol and isoagarotetrol.<sup>1b)</sup>  
Furthermore, the possibility of the hydrogen bond between 4-C=O and 5-OH was not  
present in the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum, which exhibited chemical shift at the carbon 4-C=O  
about 2 ppm upfield from that of agarotetrol (Table II).<sup>1b)</sup> The other methine protons  
were assigned on the basis of the signal of 5-H together with three hydroxyl protons  
which showed upfield displacement as the temperature increased, as shown in Table I.



Acetylation ( $\text{Ac}_2\text{O}$ -pyridine) of 1 afforded triacetate (2), a white powder (mp  $82-83^\circ\text{C}$ ),  $[\alpha]_D -43.6^\circ$  (MeOH),  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ): 2.02, 2.11, 2.12 (each s,  $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}$ ), 5.40 (d,  $J=7.2$ , 5-H), 5.56 (dd,  $J=4.1, 2.0$ , 7-H), 5.64 (dd,  $J=7.2, 2.0$ , 6-H), 6.08 (d,  $J=4.1$ , 8-H). Therefore, the acetylation did not convert the half-chair form in the hexenyl ring of 1 from (5S)-5e'-OH to (5S)-5a'-OAc.<sup>3)</sup> Subsequently, the structure of one monomeric unit (Unit A) was found to be agarotetrol linked at  $\text{C}_5$  by the ether bond to another monomeric unit (Unit B).

The structure of Unit B was characterized as 6-alkoxy-2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone, based on the appearance of three proton signals of the aromatic ABX system similar to that of  $\text{AH}_4$ ,<sup>1a)</sup> a 6-methoxy derivative of 2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone, in the  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra of 1 (Tables I and II).

Accordingly, the structure of  $\text{AH}_{10}$  was elucidated as (5S,6S,7R,8S)-2-(2-phenylethyl)-6,7,8-trihydroxy-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-[2-(2-phenylethyl)chromonyl-6-oxy]chromone, 1.

$\text{AH}_{11}$  (3), a pale yellowish powder (mp  $239-242^\circ\text{C}$ ) exhibited the absorptions due to the  $\gamma$ -pyrone ring in the IR (KBr): 1640, 1600,  $1580\text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectrum and the UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH): 234 nm ( $\epsilon=42977$ ) spectrum. The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum (80 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) showed that 3 is another dimeric derivative of 2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone on the basis of two singlet signals of 3-H at  $\delta$  5.78 and 5.86.

Acetylation ( $\text{Ac}_2\text{O}$ -pyridine) of 3 afforded diacetate (4), colorless needles, mp  $240^\circ\text{C}$ , FD-MS  $m/z$ :  $\text{M}^+$  614,  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ): 1.86, 2.42 (each s,  $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}$ ), 2.87, 3.01 (each m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 5.90, 5.93 (each s, 3-H), 7.20, 7.22, and 7.30 (2H, 4H, and 4H, respectively, each m, aromatic H). Two sets of the ortho coupling signals at  $\delta$  6.97, 7.36 (each d,  $J=8.0$ , 6- and 7-H, Unit C), 7.39 and 7.50 (each d,  $J=8.8$ , 7- and 8-H, Unit D), due to the protons of the chromone ring, were assigned by comparing them with those of  $\text{AH}_3$ <sup>1a)</sup> and  $\text{AH}_7$ <sup>1c)</sup> bearing 6-hydroxyl and 5,8-dihydroxyl groups, respectively. Therefore, it appears that compound 3 has a dimeric structure of 2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone linked by a C-C bond at each  $\text{C}_5$ , and two hydroxyl groups should be separately situated in either monomeric unit at the positions of  $\text{C}_6$  and  $\text{C}_8$ . This structure was consistent with the result of 2D-NOSYN of 4, suggesting the presence of a 6-acetoxyl function ( $\delta$  1.85) which exhibited cross peaks with 3-, 6- and 7-H attached to another chromone ring having an 8-acetoxyl group. Further, in the  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum of 4 the chemical shifts of  $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{10}$  in each chromone ring showed excellent agreement with the calculated values as shown in Table II.

Accordingly,  $\text{AH}_{11}$  was determined to be 2,2'-di-(2-phenylethyl)-8,6'-dihydroxy-5,5'-bichromone, 3.

Table I.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  data for  $\text{AH}_{10}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$  (ppm, 25°C)

Unit A			Unit B	
5-H	5.33 (d, $\underline{J}=8.2$ Hz)		7.78 (d, $\underline{J}=3.0$ Hz)	
6-H	4.27 (ddd, $\underline{J}=8.2, 6.5, 2.0$ Hz)			
7-H	3.89 (ddd, $\underline{J}=4.2, 3.5, 2.0$ Hz)		7.62 (dd, $\underline{J}=8.5, 3.0$ Hz)	
8-H	4.59 (dd, $\underline{J}=5.5, 3.5$ Hz)		7.66 (d, $\underline{J}=8.5$ Hz)	
6-OH	5.65 (d, $\underline{J}=6.5$ Hz) (5.49)*		Unit A and B	
7-OH	5.35 (d, $\underline{J}=4.2$ Hz) (5.29)		$\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$	2.61 (m, 4H), 3.02 (m, 4H)
8-OH	5.51 (d, $\underline{J}=5.5$ Hz) (5.45)		3-H	6.16 (s, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H)
			$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	6.98 (2H), 7.18 (4H), 7.27 (4H)

\*) Chemical shifts obtained at 50°C are indicated in parentheses.

Table II.  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  Data for  $\text{AH}_{10}$ ,  $\text{AH}_{11}$  and  $\text{AH}_{11}$  Diacetate

Carbon	$\text{AH}_{10}$ (1) <sup>a)</sup>		$\text{AH}_{11}$ (3)		$\text{AH}_{11}$ Diacetate (4)	
	Unit A	Unit B	Unit C	Unit D	Unit C	Unit D
2,2'	168.7	168.3	166.5	166.5	166.8	167.6
3,3'	113.8	110.5	109.5	109.8	110.7	111.1
4,4'	179.7	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.4	177.4
5,5'	78.9	109.6	129.2	122.9	134.7 (135.6) <sup>b)</sup>	128.9 (131.4)
6,6'	71.0	157.7	127.1	150.3	125.6 (124.6)	145.2 (146.6)
7,7'	74.7	124.9	121.1	117.6	128.3 (127.2)	125.6 (127.2)
8,8'	66.4	119.7	144.9	116.9	139.4 (139.4)	118.6 (117.4)
9,9'	160.7	151.9	151.0	144.9	149.3 (149.2)	155.1 (153.1)
10,10'	123.7	124.7	122.1	126.2	123.3 (123.5)	125.6 (123.5)
1"	140.3	140.5	140.2	140.2	140.5	140.6
2",6"	128.8	128.9	128.4	128.4	128.9	128.9
3",5"	128.5	128.7	128.3	128.3	128.7	128.7
4"	126.6	126.8	126.2	126.2	126.7	126.7
$\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$	32.6	32.9	31.9	31.9	32.6	32.7
$\text{CH}_3\text{COO}$	35.2	35.7	34.3	34.3	35.4	35.4
					20.1, 177.4	20.4, 177.7

a) Assignments were established by comparing with the data for agarotetrol ( $\text{AH}_1$ ) <sup>1b)</sup> and  $\text{AH}_4$ . <sup>1a)</sup>

b) Calculated values <sup>1,4)</sup> are indicated in parentheses.

It is worthy of note that the structures of  $\text{AH}_{10}$  and  $\text{AH}_{11}$ , as the first of bi-phenylethylchromones were made up in the form of ether or C-C linkage between two 2-(2-phenylethyl)chromones, hydroxylated or hydrogenated.

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- 2)  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ,  $\delta$ ) of agarotetrol ( $\text{AH}_1$ ): 3.74 (ddd,  $\underline{J}=4.0, 4.0, 2.0$  Hz, 7-H), 3.84 (ddd,  $\underline{J}=7.5, 5.5, 2.0$  Hz, 6-H), 4.32 (dd,  $\underline{J}=7.5, 6.0$  Hz, 5-H), 4.48 (t,  $\underline{J}=4.0, 4.0$  Hz, 8-H), 4.96 (d,  $\underline{J}=4.0$  Hz, 7-OH), 5.09 (d,  $\underline{J}=5.5$  Hz, 6-OH), 5.18 (d,  $\underline{J}=4.0$ , 8-OH), 5.81 (d,  $\underline{J}=6.0$  Hz, 5-OH). <sup>1b)</sup>
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