

## Two Flavonoid Dimers from *Sarcandra hainanensis* (PEI) SWAMY *et* BAILEY

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**Two new flavonoid dimers (1, 2) consisting of flavan-chalcone together with three known compounds (3–5) were isolated from the ethanol extract of the whole plants of *Sarcandra hainanensis*. Their structures were determined by extensive spectroscopic analysis. Human immunodeficiency virus-1 integrase inhibition activities of compounds 1 and 2 were evaluated and they showed weak activities with IC<sub>50</sub> at 18.05 and 25.27 μM, respectively.**

**Key words** flavonoid dimer; flavan-chalcone; *Sarcandra hainanensis*; Chloranthaceae; human immunodeficiency virus-1 integrase inhibition

*Sarcandra* belongs to Chloranthaceae family of 3 species, *S. glabra* (THUNB.) NAKAI, *S. hainanensis* (PEI) SWAMY *et* BAILEY and *S. chloranthoides* GARDNER.<sup>1)</sup> *S. glabra* and *S. hainanensis* are widely used to invigorate blood circulation and eliminate blood-stasis as traditional Chinese medicine.<sup>2)</sup> Many phytochemical and biological studies on *S. glabra* have been carried out, however, to the best of our knowledge, there is no phytochemical report about *S. hainanensis* and *S. chloranthoides*, which are endemic plants to China and India, respectively.<sup>3)</sup> *S. hainanensis* is a shrub distributing only in the south of China. In order to better understand the chemotaxonomic relationship between *S. hainanensis* and *S. glabra*, we initiated an investigation on the chemical constituents of *S. hainanensis*.

Our chemical study on the ethanol extracts of the whole plant of *S. hainanensis* had led to the isolation of chalcones.<sup>4)</sup> Continuous studies achieved the isolation of two new flavonoid dimers comprised of flavan-chalcone (**1**, **2**). Some flavonoid dimers including a 3,4-de-*H*-flavanol-chalcone dimer with linkage of C-3(C)–C-4(E),<sup>5)</sup> a flavan-flavonol with linkage of C4(C)–C5(D)<sup>6)</sup> and a flavan-flavonol with linkage of C4(C)–C8(D)<sup>7)</sup> were isolated from *Lophira alata*, *Acacia nigrescens* and *Xanthorrhoea resinosa*, respectively. However, novel dimers consisting of flavan-chalcone with linking position of C-4(C)–C-3'(D) as compounds **1** and **2** were detected for the first time. Structures and absolute configurations of these two compounds were established through detailed analysis of their spectroscopic data. No bioactivity about flavan-chalcone dimers were reported before. In the present study, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-1 integrase inhibition activity of compounds **1** and **2** indicated the two new compounds exhibited weak activities with IC<sub>50</sub> at 18.05 and 25.27 μM, respectively.

In addition to two new compounds, 3 known compounds (**3**–**5**) were also isolated from the title plant for the first time. Structures of those compounds were identified as isofraxidin (**3**), 7-hydroxy-5,8-dimethoxyflavone (**4**) and pinostrobin (**5**) by comparison of their spectroscopic data with those reported in literature.<sup>8–10)</sup>

### Results and Discussion

Compound **1** was obtained as a yellow amorphous solid and its molecular of C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>8</sub> was established by HR-electrospray ionization (ESI)-MS at *m/z* 553.1850 ([M–H]<sup>–</sup>), indi-

cating 19 degrees of unsaturation.

Thirty-three carbon signals in the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of **1** were categorized by distortionless enhancement by polarization transfer (DEPT) experiments as one carbonyl, fourteen *sp*<sup>2</sup> methines, twelve *sp*<sup>2</sup> quaternary, three methoxyls, one *sp*<sup>3</sup> methylenes and two *sp*<sup>3</sup> methines carbons. The number of *sp*<sup>2</sup> carbons suggested that four benzene rings existed in the structure of **1**. Their substitutions might be elucidated as two mono-substituted and two penta-substituted benzene rings or two mono-substituted, one tetra-substituted (1,2,4,5-tetrasubstituted) and one hexa-substituted benzene rings by the singlets at δ<sub>H</sub> 5.85 (1H), 6.22 (1H) and two A<sub>5</sub> proton spin system together with three methoxyl proton signals in the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of **1**.

The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum showed obvious signals of 2'-hydroxy-chalcone including a coupling signal of two doublets at δ<sub>H</sub> 7.95 (1H, d, *J*=15.5 Hz), 7.80 (1H, d, *J*=15.5 Hz) and a broad singlet at δ<sub>H</sub> 14.95.<sup>11)</sup> Its carbon skeleton of chalcones was confirmed by long range correlations of δ<sub>H</sub> 7.95 (H-α)

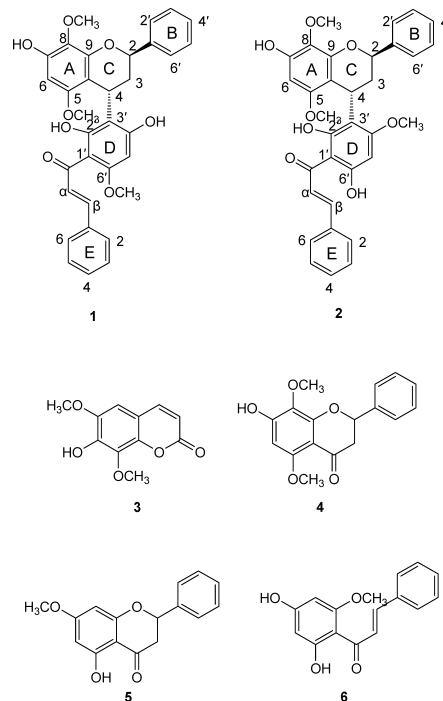


Fig. 1. Structures of Compounds **1**–**6**

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to  $\delta_C$  135.7 (C-1, E), 192.8 (ketone carbonyl) as well as  $\delta_H$  7.80 (H- $\beta$ ) to  $\delta_C$  192.8 (ketone carbonyl), 135.7 (C-1, E), 128.3 (C-2, 6, E), 128.9 (C-3, 5, E) in the heteronuclear multiple bond coherence (HMBC) spectrum of **1**. A carbonyl, a double bond and four benzene rings accounted for 18 degrees of unsaturation. The residual one double bond equivalent revealed the presence of a ring. The AB<sub>2</sub>C proton spin system of  $\delta_H$  5.05 (1H, br d,  $J=11.5$  Hz), 4.70 (1H, br d,  $J=2.0$  Hz), 2.39 (1H, br d,  $J=14.0$  Hz) and 2.07 (1H, m) indicated that compound **1** might have a flavan part. The presence of the flavan part of compound **1** was further confirmed by correlations of  $\delta_H$  5.05 (H-2, C) to  $\delta_C$  36.7 (H-3, C), 126.1 (C-2', 6', B) and 140.8 (C-1', B);  $\delta_H$  4.70 (H-4, C) to  $\delta_C$  76.1 (C-2, C), 36.7 (C-3, C), 149.0 (C-9, A/C), 101.0 (C-10, A/C) and 154.9 (C-5, A) in the HMBC experiment (Fig. 2).

HMBC correlation peaks of the signal at  $\delta_H$  4.70 (H-4, C) with  $\delta_C$  165.5 (C-2', D), 109.2 (C-3', D), 162.7 (C-4', D) and  $\delta_H$  2.39 (H-3a, C) with  $\delta_C$  109.2 (C-3', D) suggested a C-4 (C) to C-3' (D) linkage between the units of flavan-chalcone of **1** (Fig. 2). The special chemical shift of C-4 (C) and H-4 (C) at  $\delta_C$  27.3 and  $\delta_H$  4.70 in the <sup>13</sup>C- and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra confirmed a phenyl substituent. In accordance with the postulated linkage, comparison spectra of compound **1** and cardamomin (**6**)<sup>4</sup> indicated the absence of  $\delta_H$  6.03 (H-3') of **6** and little difference between chemical shifts of H-5' (D) of the two compounds ( $\delta_H$  5.85 for **1** and  $\delta_H$  5.96 for **6**).

The HMBC correlations of signals at  $\delta_H$  5.85 (1H, s) with the signals at  $\delta_C$  106.2 (C-1', D), 109.2 (C-3', D), 162.7 (C-4', D), 160.9 (C-6', D) and  $\delta_H$  6.22 (1H, s) with  $\delta_C$  154.9 (C-5, A), 149.8 (C-7, A), 129.3 (C-8, A), 101.0 (C-10, A/C) illustrated that the position of the two protons was at C-5' (D) and C-6 (A), respectively (Fig. 2). Additionally, the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum exhibited the resonances of three methoxyl singlets at  $\delta_H$  3.92, 3.91 and 3.69. The HMBC correlations between these three singlets and C-6' (D), C-8 (A) and C-5 (A), respectively, confirmed the location of the methoxyl groups.

The coupling constants of the spin systems in the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of **1** [ $J_{2,3b(C)}=11.5$  Hz;  $J_{3b,4(C)}=2.0$  Hz] indicated 2,3b-*trans*-3b,4-*cis*-relative stereochemistry with sofa form.<sup>12</sup> An *R* absolute configuration of compound **1** at C-4 (ring C) was realized by a positive Cotton effect of  $[\theta]_{209.5}=1.798 \times 10^6$  and a negative Cotton effect of  $[\theta]_{205.0}=-8.153 \times 10^6$ .<sup>13</sup> Therefore, it was presumed that compound **1** possessed a 2*R*,4*R* (C-ring) absolute configuration. Herein, the structure of compound **1** was established as (2*R*,4*R*)-7-hydroxy-5,8-dimethoxyflavan(4 $\beta$ →3')-2',4'-dihydroxy-6'-methoxychalcone and it was named as sarcandrone A.

The stereochemistry of compound **1** was defined on the basis of its nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) spectrum and MM2 calculation (Fig. 3). Both H-2 (C) and H-4 (C) showed connectivity to H-3a (br dd, C) and H-3b (m, C) in <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H correlation spectroscopy (COSY) spectrum of compound **1** (Fig. 3). However, no NOE was observed between H-2 (C) and H-3b (C) while H-4 (C) exhibited NOEs to both H-3a and H-3b. These results were in agreement with their relative stereochemistry, which was further confirmed by their coupling constant and split pattern. The relative stereochemistry between rings C and B, between rings C and D, between rings D and E could be determined from the

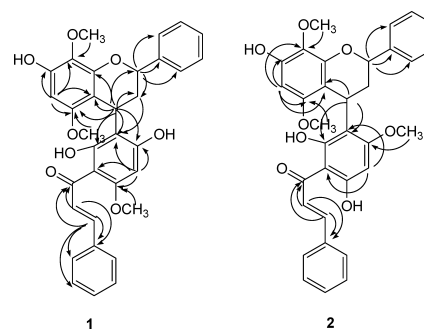


Fig. 2. Key HMBC Correlations (H→C) of Compounds **1** and **2**

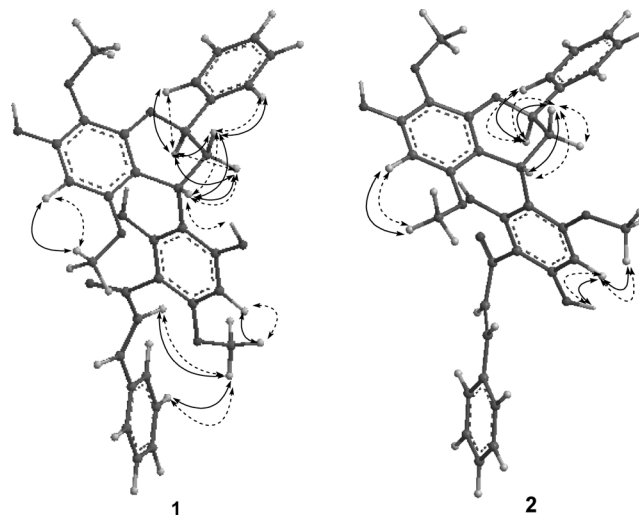


Fig. 3. Calculated Conformation by MM2 for Compounds **1** and **2**

NOEs of H-2', 6' (B), 4'-OH (D), 5'-OCH<sub>3</sub> (D) and 5'-OCH<sub>3</sub> (A) as it was shown in Fig. 3.

Compound **2**, a dark yellow powder, had a molecular formula of C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>8</sub> determined by HR-ESI-MS at  $m/z$  553.1850 ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>). Comparison of both <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data between compounds **2** and **1** suggested that their spectroscopic data were quite similar and indicated that compound **2** was also a flavan-chalcone dimer. The main differences in the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum between **1** and **2** were the chemical shifts of carbon signals at rings A, C and D. The long-range correlations between  $\delta_H$  4.95 (H-4, C) and  $\delta_C$  103.3 (C-10, A/C), 110.6 (C-3', D), 160.8 (C-2', D) revealed the two carbons connected the two parts of the dimers were at C4 (C) and C-3' (D).

The long-range correlations between  $\delta_H$  6.18 (H-6, A) and  $\delta_C$  103.3 (C-10, A/C), 129.9 (C-8, A), 149.2 (C-7, A) and 155.2 (C-5, A) in HMBC spectrum of **2** suggested the substitution positions of ring A, which was exactly the same as that of **1** (Fig. 2). The HMBC correlations of  $\delta_H$  5.84 (H-5', D) to  $\delta_C$  106.0 (C-1', D) and 110.6 (C-3', D) gave the possible substitutions of ring D. Considering the chemical shifts of the remaining five aliphatic carbon atoms, the structure of compound **2** was elucidated as 7-hydroxy-5,8-dimethoxyflavan-(4 $\beta$ →3')-2',6'-dihydroxy-4'-methoxychalcone.

The coupling constant of the spin systems in the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum [ $J_{2,3b(C)}=11.0$  Hz], the broad singlet of H-4 and Cotton effects ( $[\theta]_{207.0}=1.125 \times 10^6$ ,  $[\theta]_{202.5}=-5.317 \times 10^6$ ) of **2** were similar to the data of **1**. It could be deduced **2** also

Table 1.  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Data of Compounds **1** and **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (500 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  and 125 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$ )

| Position ring | Carbon                 | <b>1</b>            |                               | <b>2</b>            |  |
|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|
|               |                        | $\delta_{\text{C}}$ | $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J in Hz) | $\delta_{\text{C}}$ | $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J in Hz)          |
| A/C           | 2                      | 76.1                | 5.05, br d (11.5)             | 78.9                | 5.09, d (11.0)                         |
|               | 3                      | 36.7                | 2.39, br d (14.0),<br>2.07, m | 36.8                | 2.59, br s<br>2.07, br dd (12.5, 11.0) |
|               | 4                      | 27.3                | 4.70, br d (2.0)              | 28.1                | 4.95, br s                             |
|               | 5                      | 154.9               |                               | 155.2               |  |
|               | 6                      | 91.3                | 6.22, s                       | 92.5                | 6.18, s                                |
|               | 7                      | 149.8               |                               | 149.2               |  |
|               | 8                      | 129.3               |                               | 129.9               |  |
|               | 9                      | 149.0               |                               | 150.1               |  |
|               | 10                     | 101.0               |                               | 103.3               |  |
|               | B                      | 1'                  | 140.8                         |                     | 140.5                                  |
| 2', 6'        |                        | 126.1               | 7.41, d (7.0)                 | 125.9               | 7.48, d (7.5)                          |
| 3', 5'        |                        | 128.4               | 7.36, t (7.0)                 | 128.5               | 7.38, m                                |
| 4'            |                        | 128.0               | 7.30, t (7.0)                 | 128.0               | 7.32, d (7.5)                          |
| C=O           |                        | 192.8               |                               | 192.9               |  |
| $\alpha$      |                        | 127.8               | 7.95, d (15.5)                | 128.0               | 7.93, d (15.5)                         |
| D             | $\beta$                | 142.1               | 7.80, d (15.5)                | 142.0               | 7.79, d (15.5)                         |
|               | 1'                     | 106.2               |                               | 106.0               |  |
|               | 2'                     | 165.5               |                               | 160.8               |  |
|               | 3'                     | 109.2               |                               | 110.6               |  |
|               | 4'                     | 162.7               |                               | 160.9               |  |
|               | 5'                     | 92.0                | 5.85 (s)                      | 91.7                | 5.84, s                                |
| E             | 6'                     | 160.9               |                               | 164.9               |  |
|               | 1                      | 135.7               |                               | 135.7               |  |
|               | 2, 6                   | 128.3               | 7.62, d (6.5)                 | 128.3               | 7.61, d (6.5)                          |
|               | 3, 5                   | 128.9               | 7.40, t (6.5)                 | 128.9               | 7.41, m                                |
| OMe           | 4                      | 130.0               | 7.39, t (6.5)                 | 130.0               | 7.39, m                                |
|               | 5(A)-OCH <sub>3</sub>  | 56.0                | 3.69, s                       | 56.1                | 3.53, s                                |
|               | 8(A)-OCH <sub>3</sub>  | 55.7                | 3.91, s                       | 61.5                | 3.91, s                                |
|               | 6'(D)-OCH <sub>3</sub> | 61.4                | 3.92, s                       |                     |  |
| OH            | 4'(D)-OCH <sub>3</sub> |                     |                               | 55.7                | 3.88, s                                |
|               | 2'(D)-OH               |                     | 14.95, s                      |                     | 14.82, s                               |
|               | 4'(D)-OH               |                     | 6.48, s                       |                     |  |
|               | 6'(D)-OH               |                     |                               |                     | 5.88, s                                |
|               | 7(A)-OH                |                     | 5.92, s                       |                     | 5.63, br s                             |

had a *2R,4R* (ring C) absolute configuration.<sup>12,13</sup> Herein, the structure of **2** could be concluded as (*2R,4R*)-7-hydroxy-5,8-dimethoxyflavan-(4 $\beta$ →3')-2',6'-dihydroxy-4'-methoxychalcone which we named as sarcandrone B.

The stereochemistry of compound **2** was revealed as it showed in Fig. 3 based on its NOESY spectrum and MM<sub>2</sub> calculation. Different stereochemistry of **2** from **1** mainly reflected on the NOEs of H-2 (C), H-4 (C) and 4'-OCH<sub>3</sub> (D). H-2 (C) and H-4 (C) displayed weak NOEs to H-3b (m, C) and no NOEs to H-3a (br dd, C). It might be caused by the weakness of the signals or a smaller angle of the dihedral angle between H-2 (C) and H-3b (C). The stereochemistry of the chalcone part of **2** might be deduced from the NOEs of 4'-OCH<sub>3</sub> (D) (Fig. 3).

Compounds **1** and **2** were assayed for their HIV-1 integrase (IN) inhibition activities with a microplate screening method using magnetic beads.<sup>14</sup> Baicalein was used as the standard medicine with an IC<sub>50</sub> value as 1.06  $\mu\text{M}$  in the test. Compounds **1** and **2** showed weak activities for the integrase strand transfer reaction. The *in vitro* IC<sub>50</sub> values of compounds **1** and **2** were 18.05 and 25.27  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively.

#### Experimental

**General Experimental Procedures** UV spectra were measured on a Shimadzu UV-2550 UV-visible spectrophotometer. Optical rotations were made on a Perkin-Elmer 341 polarimeter at room temperature. Circular

dichroism (CD) spectra were measured on a JASCO J-725 spectropolarimeter in MeOH. IR spectra were measured on a NEXUS-470 FTIR spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$ - (500 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$ - (125 MHz) NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance DRX-500 spectrometer. Chemical shifts were referenced to the residual solvent signal ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.26,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.0). HR-ESI-MS spectra were performed on APEX Q-FT-MS/MS spectrometer. ESI-MS spectra were performed on ABI Qtrap spectrometer. All solvents used were of analytical grade (Beijing Chemical Plant, Beijing, People's Republic of China). Silica gel (300–400 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Plant, Qingdao, People's Republic of China), C<sub>18</sub> reversed-phase silica gel (150–200 mesh, Merck), Sephadex LH-20 gel (pharmacia), and MCI gel (CHP20P, 75–150  $\mu\text{m}$ , Mitsubishi Chemical Industries Ltd.) were used for column chromatography, and precoated silica gel GF<sub>254</sub> plates (Qingdao Marine Chemical Plant) were used for TLC.

**Plant Material** The whole plants of *Sarcandra hainanensis* were collected in Baishan county, Hainan province, China, in April 2007 and were authenticated by Professor Pei-Gen Xiao of Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy of Medicinal Science. A voucher specimen (SH070706) has been deposited in the Herbarium of Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy of Medical Science and Peking Union Medical College.

**Extraction and Isolation** The air dried, chipped whole plants of *S. hainanensis* (29 kg) were exhaustively extracted with 95% ethanol under reflux for twice (210 l × 2). The extracts were evaporated to yield 2928.0 g of green residue. The EtOH extract was suspended in water saturated with NaCl and then extracted with petroleum ether,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , EtOAc and *n*-BuOH sequentially.

The  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ -soluble portion was evaporated to leave a residue (720.3 g). A portion (611.0 g) of it was subjected to CC (column chromatography) of silica gel (200–300 mesh, 3000 g). Five fractions (C1 to C5) were collected

according to TLC. Fraction C3 was further chromatographed on silica gel column with a gradient of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ -EtOAc with increasing polarity to give 15 subfractions (C3-1 to C3-15).

Fraction C3-3 (6.5 g) was submitted to CC on a silica gel column eluting with petroleum ether-acetone (20:1-6:1) to give C3-3-1 to C3-3-7. C3-3-7 was purified by CC of Sephadex LH-20 using  $\text{CHCl}_3$ -MeOH (2:3) as eluent to afford **1** (50.4 mg). Fraction C3-4 (3.4 g) was absorbed onto 5.6 g of silica gel and applied to a silica gel (200-300 mesh, 133 g) column chromatography eluted with a gradient of petroleum ether-EtOAc (6:1-1:1) with increasing polarity to give C3-4-1 to C3-4-8. C3-4-7 was subjected to a column of Sephadex LH 20 eluted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ -MeOH (0:1-2:3) to give **2** (21.7 mg). Fraction C3-6 (6.4 g) was submitted to CC on a silica gel column eluting with petroleum ether-EtOAc (5:2) to give **3** (1026.1 mg). Fraction C3-7 (2.4 g) was absorbed onto 2.7 g of silica gel and packed on a dry CC (silica gel 200-300 mesh, 110 g). Successive elution with petroleum ether-EtOAc (6:1-1:1) yielded 8 subfractions (C3-7-1 to C3-7-8). Further purification of C3-7-4 by CC of Sephadex LH-20 using MeOH furnished **4** (158.8 mg). Repeated purification of C3-10 on a Sephadex LH 20 column ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ -MeOH 2:3) gave **5** (10.3 mg).

Sarcandrone A (**1**): Yellow powder ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -103$  ( $c=4.85 \times 10^{-2}$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 349 (3.29), 232 (3.22) nm; CD  $[\theta]_{209.5} = 1.798 \times 10^6$ ;  $[\theta]_{205.0} = -8.153 \times 10^6$ ; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3398, 2942, 2852, 1627, 1585, 1491, 1453, 1435, 1342, 1272, 1200, 1171, 1113, 1024, 976;  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR data see Table 1; ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 553.16  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ , 383.13 (100); HR-ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 553.1850 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_8$  553.1868,  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ ).

Sarcandrone B (**2**): Dark yellow powder ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -468$  ( $c=4.70 \times 10^{-2}$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 350 (3.14), 235 (3.02) nm; CD  $[\theta]_{207.0} = 1.125 \times 10^6$ ;  $[\theta]_{202.5} = -5.317 \times 10^6$ ; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3423, 2934, 2854, 1613, 1563, 1495, 1433, 1332, 1287, 1226, 1140, 1103, 1018, 973;  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR data see Table 1; ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 553.16  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$  (32), 383.13 (100); HR-ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 553.1850 (Calcd for  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_8$  553.1868,  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ ).

**HIV-1 Integrase Strand Transfer Inhibition Assays** HIV-1 integrase strand transfer (ST) assays were performed in a 96-well microplate (Corning, New York, NY, U.S.A.) in a final volume of 50  $\mu\text{l}$ . The wells were washed once with the reaction buffer (25 mmol/l PIPES, pH 7.0, 10 mmol/l  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, 5% (w/v) glycerol, 0.1 g/l bovin serum albumin (BSA), and 10 mmol/l  $\text{MnCl}_2$ ). The compounds were diluted with dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) to a final concentration of 10% DMSO into the reaction volume (v/v) and pre-incubated with 15 pmol integrase (IN) at 37 °C in the reaction buffer in the absence of  $\text{MnCl}_2$  (10 mmol/l) for 10 min. Subsequently, 1.5 pmol donor DNA and 15 pmol target DNA were added and the reaction was initiated. After incubation for 1 h at 37 °C, 1.5 ml magnetic particles ( $6.7 \times 10^8$  beads/ml) and 51.5  $\mu\text{l}$  binding buffer (10 mmol/l Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 2 mol/l NaCl, 20 mmol/l ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), and 0.1% [w/v] Tween 20) were added and incubated at 20 °C for 15 min. Then the wells holding the mixture were placed in a magnetic concentrator, the supernatant was discarded, and the wells were washed 3 times with phosphate-

buffered saline (PBS) containing 0.1% Tween 20 (PBST). Subsequently, 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of 1:5000 diluted alkaline phosphatase (AP) conjugate anti-DIG antibody was added and incubated for 30 min at 37 °C. Finally, the wells were washed 3 times with PBST and the magnetic beads were transferred into fresh wells; 100  $\mu\text{l}$  P-nitrophenyl phosphate (P-NPP) substrate (0.1 mol/l  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , pH 9.5, 6.7 mmol/l P-NPP, and 2 mmol/l  $\text{MgCl}_2$ ) was added. The plates were read at 405 nm with a Model 680 microplate reader (Bio-Rad, U.S.A.). The inhibition percentage and  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values were calculated based on the assay results after curve fitting according to a non-linear regression.

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