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We have continued a study of the lactones of *Jurinea maxima* C. Winkl. [1]. The epigeal part of the plant was extracted with chloroform and the resin remaining after the solvent has been driven off was treated with 50% ethanol. The liquid phase was distilled in a rotary evaporator, and the combined lactones were dried and chromatographed on a column of silica gel.

From the fractions eluted with benzene-acetone (9:1) we isolated a compound (I) with the composition  $C_{15}H_{20}O_4$ , mp 136-138°C (ethyl acetate), mol. wt. 264 (elementary analysis) and a very small amount of a compound (II) with mp 182-184°C (ethyl acetate), mol. wt. 266 (mass spectrometry).

The IR spectrum of (I) (tablets with KBr) shows absorption bands at 3250 and 3565  $cm^{-1}$  (OH groups), 1745  $cm^{-1}$  (carbonyl of a  $\gamma$ -lactone), and 1650  $cm^{-1}$  (C=C bond). In the IR spectrum of (II) there are absorption bands at 3250 and 3500  $cm^{-1}$  (OH groups), 1760  $cm^{-1}$  (carbonyl of a  $\gamma$ -lactone) and 1670  $cm^{-1}$  (C=C bond). The results obtained showed that the compounds under consideration were unsaturated dihydroxy lactones.

In the NMR spectrum of (I) (taken on a JNM-4H-100/100 MHz instrument in deuteropyridine, the chemical shifts being given in the  $\delta$  scale from the signal of HMDS taken as 0), there are two signals at 6.50 and 6.70 ppm in the form of a triplet due to the protons of an exocyclic methylene group conjugated with a lactone carbonyl, a singlet at 1.33 ppm (methyl on a double bond), and a multiplet at 4.35 ppm showing the presence of fragment  $HOCH_2-C=CH-$ .

On gentle heating with 5% aqueous KOH, compound (I) dissolved; it was not recovered on acidification but was converted into the lactone artemisiifolin with mp 130-132°C [2]. Consequently, relactonization takes place, which shows the  $\alpha$  position of the second hydroxy group relative to the lactone ring.

In their properties, compounds (I) and (II) correspond to salonitenolide and salonitolide [3, 4], which was confirmed by comparing their spectra. The IR spectrum was kindly supplied to us by Dr. M. Golub.

The lactone maximolide isolated previously has been identified as isoamberboin [5].

## LITERATURE CITED

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