

## Chemical Constituents of *Tripterygium wilfordii*

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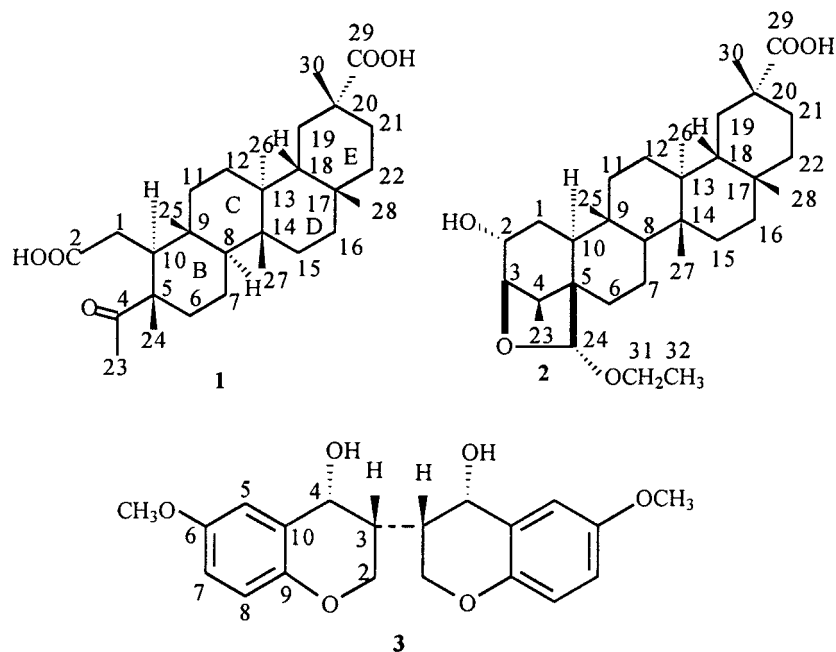
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The two new triterpenoids, (5 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,9 $\beta$ ,10 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ ,14 $\beta$ )-5,9,13-trimethyl-4-oxo-3,24,25,26-tetranor-2,3-secooleanane-2,29-dioic acid (= 4-oxo-*D:A*-friedo-3-nor-2,3-secooleanane-2,29-dioic acid; **1**) and (2 $\alpha$ ,3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ ,5 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,9- $\beta$ ,10 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ ,14 $\beta$ ,24*R*)-3,24-epoxy-24-ethoxy-2-hydroxy-5,9,13-trimethyl-24,25,26-trinoroleanan-29-oic acid (= 3 $\beta$ ,24-epoxy-24 $\alpha$ -ethoxy-2 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-*D:A*-friedooleanan-29-oic acid; **2**) (absolute configurations tentative), together with a novel bi-2*H*-benzopyran, namely (*rel*-(3*R*,3'*S*,4*R*,4'*S*)-3,3',4,4'-tetrahydro-6,6'-dimethoxy[3,3'-bi-2*H*-benzopyran]-4,4'-diol (**3**), were isolated from *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook. f. Their structures were established by chemical and spectroscopic studies and by X-ray crystallography.

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**1. Introduction.** – *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook. f. is widely distributed in China and has been used as a traditional plant insecticide and a medicinal plant [1]. Recently, anti-AIDS agents and an anti-HIV principle were isolated from this plant [2], and its triterpenoid constituents were also reported [3]. For an investigation of the active principles, a careful reexamination of this species collected from the Fujian province was carried out in our laboratory. Two novel triterpenoids, *D:A*-friedo-3-nor-2,3-secooleanane-2,29-dioic acid (**1**) and 3 $\beta$ ,24-epoxy-24 $\alpha$ -ethoxy-2 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-*D:A*-friedooleanane-29-oic acid (**2**), and a novel bi-2*H*-benzopyran named [3,3',4,4'-tetrahydro-6,6'-dimethoxy-3,3'-bi-2*H*-benzopyran]-4,4'-diol (**3**), were isolated from this plant. This paper describes the isolation and the structure elucidation of these three interesting compounds.

**2. Results and Discussion.** – Compound **1**, obtained as a powder, showed a molecular-ion peak at  $m/z$  474 in the EI-MS, and the high-resolution EI-MS gave the molecular formula C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. The IR spectrum indicated the presence of carboxylic acid and carbonyl groups (2935 and 1701 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (*Table*) and HMQC spectra and NOESY experiments, and their comparison with the data of salaspermic acid [4], allowed us to establish the structure of **1** as 4-oxo-*D:A*-friedo-3-nor-2,3-secooleanane-2,29-dioic acid. To date, more than 100 triterpenes have been isolated from members of the Celastraceae. They have been derived from congeners, but the only two examples related to **1** are celastrahydride [5] and regelone [6], which are *D:A*-friedo-24-nor-2,3-secooleanane derivatives. Regelone and celastrahydride are probably formed biogenetically from a quinomethide precursor as result of ring-A oxidation. But compound **1** is not a 24-nor-type derivative, and it is suggested that **1** is formed biogenetically from other precursor. For these reasons, compound **1** is a unique structure in which the pentacyclic triterpenoid skeleton lacks C(3).



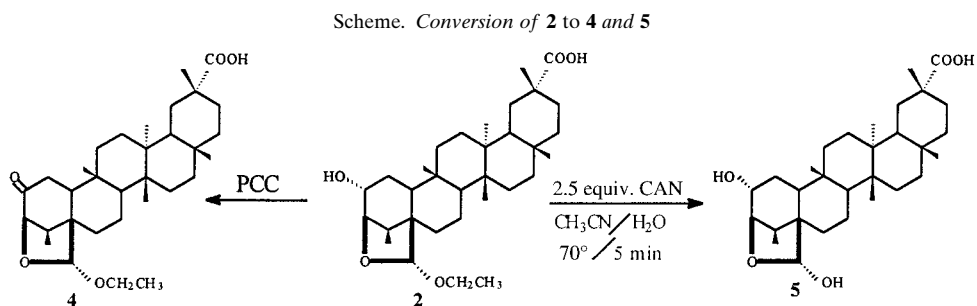
The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of **1** revealed the presence of 7 Me groups at  $\delta$  0.95, 0.99, 1.21, 1.27, 1.32, 1.49, and 2.44 (7s, each 3 H). In the  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum, 3 C=O signals appeared at  $\delta$  176.4, 181.3, and 213.8, besides 7 Me, 10  $\text{CH}_2$ , 3 CH, and 6 quaternary C signals. The  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  data of **1** were similar to those of salaspermic acid [4], except for the chemical shifts of C(1), C(2), C(3), C(4), C(5), C(10), C(23), and C(24), suggesting that the B–E ring system of **1** was the same as in salaspermic acid. Unassigned  $^{13}\text{C}$ -signals of **1** appeared at  $\delta$  18.0 (*q*), 25.6 (*q*), 32.7 (*t*), 50.2 (*d*), 54.0 (*s*), 176.4 (*s*), and 213.8 (*s*). The presence of a Me C=O moiety in **1** was established by signals at  $\delta(\text{C})$  25.6 (*q*) and  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.44 (3 H, *s*) and by the fragment  $m/z$  431 ( $[\text{M} - 43]^+$ ). In the HMBC spectrum, the signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  0.99 (Me(25)) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{C})$  34.4 (C(11)), 38.7 (C(9)), 50.7 (C(8)), and 50.2. These observations indicated that the  $\delta(\text{C})$  50.2 was attributable to C(10). In the HMQC spectrum, the signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.87 (*dd*,  $J = 6, 4$  Hz, 1 H) was correlated with the  $\delta(\text{C})$  50.2 (C(10)). The signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  1.27 (*s*, 3 H) correlated with  $\delta(\text{C})$  18.0 and showed a long-range correlation with  $\delta(\text{C})$  213.8, 54.0, and 50.2 (C(10)). The signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.44 (*s*, 3 H) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{C})$  25.6 and showed a long-range correlation with  $\delta(\text{C})$  213.8. Thus,  $\delta(\text{C})$  18.0 (*q*), 25.6 (*q*), 54.0 (*s*), and 213.8 (*s*) were assigned to C(24), C(23), C(5), and C(4), respectively. The signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.87 (*dd*,  $J = 6, 4$  Hz, H–C(10)) showed long-range correlations with  $\delta(\text{C})$  176.4, 54.0 (C(5)), 38.7 (C(9)), and 32.7, thus allowing the assignment of  $\delta(\text{C})$  32.7 and 176.4 to C(1) and C(2). The relative configuration of **1** was established by NOESY experiments: signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.87 (H–C(10)) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{H})$  1.67 (H–C(8)), and  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.44 (Me(23)) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.87 (H–C(10)). These findings clearly showed that the orientations of Me(24) and H–C(10) are  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$ , respectively.

Compound **2** was obtained as colorless crystals (from acetone). Its IR spectrum showed absorptions of OH ( $3435\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and C=O ( $1699\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) groups, and its  $^{13}\text{C}$ - and  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra (Table) and elemental analysis were consistent with a molecular formula  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_5$ , but the  $M^+$  of **2** could not be detected in the MS. The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ , HMQC, HMBC, and mass spectra, COSY experiments, and comparison with the data of salaspermic acid [4], established the structure of **2** to be 3 $\beta$ ,24-epoxy-24 $\alpha$ -ethoxy-2 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-*D*:*A*-friedooleanan-29-oic acid. The position of the epoxy function was confirmed by pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC) oxidation of **2** to **4**, and

Table.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  Data ( $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ ) of Compounds **1** and **2**.  $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz.

	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	
	$^1\text{H-NMR}$	$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$	$^1\text{H-NMR}$	$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$
$\text{CH}_2(1)$	2.69 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 2.33 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	32.7	1.98 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.88 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	28.0
C(2) or CH(2)		176.4	4.49 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	69.2
CH(3)			4.34 ( <i>d</i> , $J=4$ , 1 H)	85.4
C(4) or CH(4)		213.8	2.54 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	44.7
C(5)		54.0		50.4
$\text{CH}_2(6)$	1.94 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.60 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	37.4	1.38 ( <i>m</i> , 2 H)	30.1
$\text{CH}_2(7)$	1.53 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.38 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	18.1	1.56 ( <i>m</i> , 2 H)	19.7
CH(8)	1.67 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	50.7	1.50 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	51.0
C(9)		38.7		37.8
CH(10)	2.87 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=6, 4$ , 1 H)	50.2	1.86 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	53.6
$\text{CH}_2(11)$	1.86 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.57 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	34.4	1.82 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.48 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	37.0
$\text{CH}_2(12)$	1.73 ( <i>m</i> , 2 H)	29.5	2.54 ( <i>m</i> , 2 H)	30.3
C(13)		39.8		39.7
C(14)		39.6		39.9
$\text{CH}_2(15)$	1.38 ( <i>m</i> , 2 H)	29.8	1.74 ( <i>m</i> , 2 H)	29.8
$\text{CH}_2(16)$	1.77 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.47 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	36.7	1.38 ( <i>m</i> , 2 H)	34.9
C(17)		30.5		30.8
C(18)	1.66 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	44.8	1.68 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	45.1
$\text{CH}_2(19)$	2.71 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.75 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	31.1	2.73 ( <i>br. d</i> , $J=15$ , 1 H); 1.88 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	31.2
C(20)		40.8		41.1
$\text{CH}_2(21)$	2.61 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.57 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	30.6	2.62 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.57 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	30.8
$\text{CH}_2(22)$	2.33 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 1.08 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	37.5	2.41 ( <i>td</i> , $J=14, 3$ , 1 H); 1.16 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	37.9
Me(23)	2.44 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	25.6	1.33 ( <i>m</i> , 3 H)	15.2
Me(24) or CH(24)	1.27 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	18.0	5.34 ( <i>s</i> , 1 H)	104.0
Me(25)	0.99 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	18.7	1.11 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	17.4
Me(26)	1.32 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	18.3	1.28 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	18.4
Me(27)	0.95 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	16.8	0.99 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	17.2
Me(28)	1.21 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	32.2	1.23 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	32.5
C(29)		181.3		181.8
Me(30)	1.49 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	32.1	1.52 ( <i>s</i> , 3 H)	32.6
$\text{CH}_2(31)$			4.07 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H); 3.65 ( <i>m</i> , 1 H)	64.2
Me(32)			1.33 ( <i>m</i> , 3 H)	16.1

cerium ammonium nitrate (CAN) mediated hydrolysis of the acetal function [7] of **2** yielded the hemiacetal **5** (see *Scheme* and *Exper. Part*).



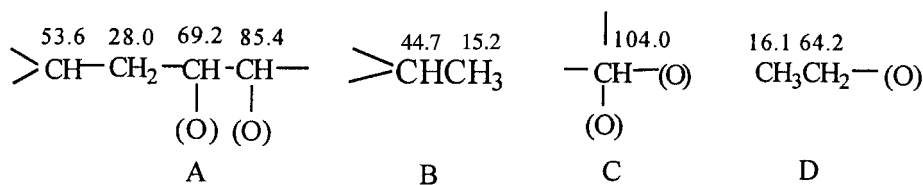


Fig. 1. Partial structures for ring A of compound **2**

The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of **2** revealed the presence of 7 Me ( $\delta(\text{H})$  0.99, 1.11, 1.23, 1.28, 1.52 (*s*, each 3 H), 1.33 (*m*, 3 H), 1.33 (*m*, 3 H)), 2 CH–O ( $\delta(\text{H})$  4.49 (*m*, 1 H), 4.34 (*d*,  $J = 4$  Hz, 1 H);  $\delta(\text{C})$  69.2, 85.4), 1 O–CH–O ( $\delta(\text{H})$  5.34 (*s*, 1 H); ( $\delta(\text{C})$  104.0) and 1 CH<sub>2</sub>O group ( $\delta(\text{H})$  4.07 (*m*, 1 H), 3.65 (*m*, 1 H); ( $\delta(\text{C})$  64.2). In addition the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **2** showed 1 C=O ( $\delta(\text{C})$  181.8), 10 CH<sub>2</sub>, 4 CH, and 6 quaternary C signals. The  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$  COSY and  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$  COSY experiments suggested the presence of a MeCH<sub>2</sub>O moiety. The high-resolution MS established that the fragment  $m/z$  442 ( $[M-\text{COOH}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5]^+$ ) had the formula C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, in agreement with the molecular formula C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. The  $\delta(\text{C})$  of C(6) to C(22) and C(25) to C(30) were found to be similar to those of salaspermic acid [4] suggesting an identical B–E ring system. This was confirmed by very similar HMQC and HMBC data of **2** and salaspermic acid and suggested that ring A of **2** accounted for the remaining two degrees of unsaturation. Analyses of the corresponding signals by  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ -COSY and  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -COSY experiments established the partial structures **A–D** (Fig. 1).

In the HMBC spectrum of **2**, the signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  1.11 (Me(25)) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{C})$  37.8 (C(9)), 51.0 (C(8)), and 53.6. Thus, the latter was assigned to C(10), and the partial structure **A** could be assigned to C(10), C(1), C(2), and C(3). The signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  1.33 (Me(23)) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{C})$  15.2 and showed long-range correlations with  $\delta(\text{C})$  44.7 (*d*) and 50.4 (*s*) and the signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  4.34 (H–C(3)) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{C})$  85.4 and showed long-range correlations with  $\delta(\text{C})$  28.0 (*t*, C(1)), 69.2 (*d*, C(2)), 50.4 (*s*), 15.2 (*q*, C(23)), and 104.0 (*d*). These correlations allowed us to connect partial structure **B** to partial structure **A**, and to assign  $\delta(\text{C})$  50.4 to C(5). The signal at  $\delta(\text{H})$  5.34 (Me(24)) was correlated with  $\delta(\text{C})$  104.0 and showed long-range correlations with  $\delta(\text{C})$  44.7 (*d*, C(4)), 85.4 (*d*, C(3)), 53.6 (*d*, C(10)),  $\delta(\text{C})$  64.2 (*t*, CH<sub>2</sub>), and 50.4 (*s*, C(5)), establishing the connectivity of partial structures **D** and **C** and the assignment of  $\delta(\text{C})$  104.0 to C(24).

The remaining unsaturation in A ring of **2** ought to be an epoxy moiety. Its location between C(3) and C(24) was established by the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of the oxidation product **4**, in which the *m* of H–C(2) ( $\delta(\text{H})$  4.49) had disappeared and the *d* of H–C(2) ( $\delta(\text{H})$  4.34,  $J = 4$  Hz) become a *s* ( $\delta(\text{H})$  3.88), thus excluding an epoxy bridge between C(2) and C(24).

In the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of the hydrolysis product **5**, the  $\delta(\text{H})$  1.33 (*m*, 3 H), 4.07 (*m*, 1 H), and 3.65 (*m*, 1 H) had disappeared, and H–C(24) appeared at  $\delta(\text{H})$  5.95. In the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **5**,  $\delta(\text{C})$  64.2 (*t*) and 16.1 (*q*) had disappeared, and C(24) appeared at  $\delta(\text{C})$  98.0. These observations were consistent with the removal of MeCH<sub>2</sub> from **2** to give the hemiacetal **5**.

The structure, relative configuration, and probable absolute configuration of **2** were finally established by X-ray analysis (Fig. 2)<sup>1)</sup>. Compound **2** was also simultaneously isolated from *Tripterygium wilfordii* by Takaishi and co-workers [8].

Compound **3**, obtained as colorless oil, exhibited IR absorptions for OH (3365 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and aromatic-ring moieties (1605, 1514, and 1463 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra, including  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$  COSY, HMQC, and HMBC experiments, suggested that **3** was a 3,3'-bi-2*H*-benzopyrane derivative, and the high-resolution MS gave the molecular formula C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, consistent with a symmetric structure. Many terpenoids and alkaloids were isolated from *Tripterygium wilfordii*, but compound **3** with its 3,3'-bi-2*H*-benzopyrane structure was isolated from this plant for the first time.

<sup>1)</sup> The structure of **2** was reported by us at the UNESCO Regional Symposium on Drug Development from Medicinal Plant (Proceedings), March, 2000, Kunming, P.R. China.

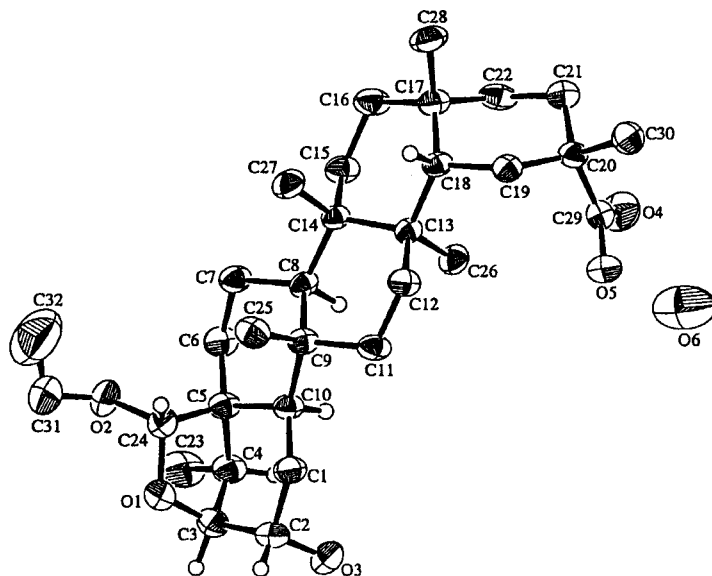


Fig. 2. X-Ray crystal structure of compound **2**

The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of **3** showed a pair of *ortho*-coupled aromatic protons at  $\delta(\text{H})$  6.81 (*dd*,  $J = 8.2$ , 1.8 Hz) and 6.88 (*d*,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), a pair of *meta*-coupled aromatic protons at  $\delta(\text{H})$  6.81 (*dd*,  $J = 8.2$ , 1.8 Hz) and 6.89 (*d*,  $J = 1.8$  Hz), 1 CH–O at  $\delta(\text{H})$  4.73 (*d*,  $J = 4.1$  Hz), 1 CH at  $\delta(\text{H})$  3.10 (*m*), 1  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  at  $\delta(\text{H})$  4.24 (*dd*,  $J = 10$ , 6.9 Hz) and 3.87 (*dd*,  $J = 10$ , 3.7 Hz), and 1 MeO at  $\delta(\text{H})$  3.90 (*s*). The  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum revealed three substituted benzene-ring C-atoms (108.7 (*d*), 146.8 (*s*), 119.0 (*d*), 114.4 (*d*), 145.3 (*s*), 133.3 (*s*)), 1 CH–O, 1  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ , 1  $\text{CH}_2$ , and 1 MeO signal.

The relative configuration of **3** was deduced from  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ -coupling constants. Thus, the  $J(2,3)$  values of 6.9 and 3.7 Hz suggested that H–C(3) was an axial proton with the C(3)–C(3') linkage having a orientation, and  $J(3,4) = 4.1$  Hz was consistent with H–C(4) being equatorial and the OH group having the *a* orientation.

### Experimental Part

*General.* Column chromatography (CC): silica gel 60 H from Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Group Co., China. M.p.: Fisher-John, no correction.  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ : Jasco DIP-181 polarimeter; 10-cm microcell. IR Spectra: Perkin-Elmer 599B IR spectrometer, KBr pellets;  $\bar{\nu}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  Spectra: Bruker AM-400 instrument,  $\text{SiMe}_4$  as internal standard. EI-MS: MAT-711 spectrometer; 70 eV;  $m/z$  (rel. int. in %).

*Plant Material.* The roots of *Tripterygium wilfordii* were collected in Fujian Province, P.R. China. The plant material was identified by Pharmacognosy Associate Professor Guan-Yuan Gu, Vice Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Archives of the Shanghai Medical University, Shanghai, China.

*Extraction and Isolation.* The air-dried roots (200 kg) of *Tripterygium wilfordii* were powdered and extracted with 95% EtOH. The EtOH extract was extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , and the  $\text{CHCl}_3$ -soluble fraction (500 g) submitted to CC (silica gel,  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$  95 : 5  $\rightarrow$  8 : 2): Fractions A – E. Fr. A was repeatedly chromatographed (silica gel, cyclohexane/acetone 5 : 1): **1** (15 mg), **2** (330 mg), and **3** (20 mg).

( $5\beta,8\alpha,9\beta,10\alpha,13\alpha,14\beta$ )-5,9,13-Trimethyl-4-oxo-3,24,25,26-tetranor-2,3-secooleanane-2,29-dioic Acid<sup>2)</sup> (**1**). Amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -11.8$  ( $c = 0.5$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}$ ). IR: 2935, 1701, 1466, 1234, 939, 752.  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :  $\nu$  Table. EI-MS: 474 (10,  $M^+$ ), 431 (20), 413 (25), 385 (100), 235 (60), 189 (38), 121 (27), 95 (30). HR-EI-MS: 474.3226 ( $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_5^+$ ; calc. 474.3245).

<sup>2)</sup> Absolute configurations tentative.

(2 $\alpha$ ,3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ ,5 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,9 $\beta$ ,10 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ ,14 $\beta$ ,24R)-3,24-Epoxy-24-ethoxy-2-hydroxy-5,9,13-trimethyl-24,25,26-trinoroleanan-29-oic Acid<sup>2</sup>) (**2**). Colorless crystals. M.p. 254–256°.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -49.9$  ( $c = 0.5$ , C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N). IR: 3435, 1699, 1458, 1379, 1115, 1051, 962. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: Table. EI-MS: 442 (60, [M – COOH – C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), 424 (32), 409 (17), 289 (16), 235 (25), 147 (63), 121 (70), 109 (100). HR-EI-MS: 442.3467 ([M – COOH – C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>5</sub>); calc. 442.3447). Anal. calc. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>5</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O: C 71.91, H 10.11; found: C 71.32, H 10.30.

rel-(3R,3'S,4R,4'S)-3,3',4,4'-Tetrahydro-6,6'-dimethoxy[3,3'-bi-2H-benzopyran]-4,4'-diol (**3**). Colorless oil. IR: 3365, 1605, 1514, 1464, 1124, 854, 819, 752. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 3.87 (dd,  $J = 10$ , 3.7, 1 H – C(2)); 4.24 (dd,  $J = 10$ , 6.9, 1 H – C(2)); 3.10 (m, H – C(3)); 4.73 (d,  $J = 4.1$ , H – C(4)); 6.89 (d,  $J = 1.8$ , H – C(5)); 6.88 (d,  $J = 8.2$ , H – C(8)); 6.81 (dd,  $J = 8.2$ , 1.8, H – C(7)). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 71.7 (t, C(2)); 54.2 (d, C(3)); 85.9 (d, C(4)); 108.7 (d, C(5)); 146.8 (s, C(6)); 119.7 (d, C(7)); 114.4 (d, C(8)); 145.3 (s, C(9)); 133.0 (s, C(10)); 56.0 (q, MeO). EI-MS: 358 (53, M<sup>+</sup>), 327 (12), 205 (21), 151 (100), 180 (11), 137 (43). HR-EI-MS: 358.1412 (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 358.1416).

(3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ ,5 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,9 $\beta$ ,10 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ ,14 $\beta$ ,24R)-3,24-Epoxy-24-ethoxy-5,9,13-trimethyl-2-oxo-24,25,26-trinoroleanan-29-oic Acid<sup>2</sup>) (**4**). Excess pyridinium chlorochromate was added to a stirred soln. of **2** (100 mg) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 ml). The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 40 min and then extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 10 ml). The combined extract was evaporated and the crude product purified by CC (silica gel, cyclohexane/acetone 5 : 1): **4** (75 mg). Amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -101.9$  ( $c = 1.30$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 0.84, 0.89, 0.95, 1.05, 1.20 (s, each 3 H); 1.41 (d,  $J = 6.9$ , Me(23)); 1.16 (m, Me(32)); 3.43 (m, 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>(31)); 3.77 (m, 1 H, CH<sub>2</sub>(31)); 3.88 (s, H – C(3)); 5.23 (s, H – C(24)). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 29.6 (t, C(1)); 211.1 (s, C(2)); 87.1 (d, C(3)); 50.6 (d, C(4)); 50.5 (s, C(5)); 30.1 (t, C(6)); 18.9 (t, C(7)); 50.9 (d, C(8)); 38.0 (s, C(9)); 56.8 (d, C(10)); 36.7 (t, C(11)); 29.6 (t, C(12)); 39.0 (s, C(13)); 39.1 (s, C(14)); 29.4 (t, C(15)); 35.5 (t, C(16)); 30.0 (s, C(17)); 44.0 (d, C(18)); 34.1 (t, C(19)); 40.3 (s, C(20)); 29.0 (t, C(21)); 36.0 (t, C(22)); 15.3 (q, C(23)); 103.7 (d, C(24)); 17.0 (q, C(25)); 17.8 (q, C(26)); 16.6 (q, C(27)); 31.4 (q, C(28)); 185.1 (s, C(29)); 31.8 (q, C(30)); 64.0 (t, C(31)); 14.0 (q, C(32)). EI-MS: 514 (32, M<sup>+</sup>), 469 (12), 440 (100), 235 (85), 189 (70), 163 (46), 109 (78), 95 (76).

(2 $\alpha$ ,3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ ,5 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,9 $\beta$ ,10 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ ,14 $\beta$ ,24R)-3,24-Epoxy-24-ethoxy-2,24-dihydroxy-5,9,13-trimethyl-24,25,26-trinoroleanan-29-oic Acid<sup>2</sup>) (**5**). To a stirred soln. of **2** (50 mg, 0.096 mmol) in MeCN (5 ml) at 70°, a soln. of CAN (142 mg, 0.25 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (2 ml) was added in one portion. After 5 min, the crude mixture was poured into H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 20 ml). The extract was dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated and the crude product purified by CC (silica gel, cyclohexane/acetone 4 : 1) **5** (24 mg). Amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -4.2$  ( $c = 1.30$ , EtOH). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N, 400 MHz) 0.83, 0.98, 1.10, 1.20, 1.40 (5s, each 3 H); 1.46 (d,  $J = 6.9$ , Me(23)); 5.94 (s, H – C(24)); 4.42 (m, H – C(2)); 4.36 (d,  $J = 4$ , H – C(3)). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N, 400 MHz): 27.9 (t, C(1)); 69.2 (d, C(2)); 84.9 (d, C(3)); 44.8 (d, C(4)); 50.0 (s, C(5)); 30.5 (t, C(6)); 19.8 (t, C(7)); 50.8 (d, C(8)); 37.7 (s, C(9)); 53.5 (d, C(10)); 37.5 (t, C(11)); 30.5 (t, C(12)); 39.4 (s, C(13)); 39.6 (s, C(14)); 29.8 (t, C(15)); 34.7 (t, C(16)); 30.9 (s, C(17)); 44.8 (d, C(18)); 29.6 (t, C(19)); 40.7 (s, C(20)); 30.5 (t, C(21)); 36.7 (t, C(22)); 15.2 (q, C(23)); 98.0 (d, C(24)); 17.1 (q, C(25)); 18.1 (q, C(26)); 16.9 (q, C(27)); 32.1 (q, C(28)); 181.3 (s, C(29)); 32.2 (q, C(30)). EI-MS: 488 (5, M<sup>+</sup>), 473 (8), 384 (100), 369 (82), 355 (62), 329 (25), 255 (41), 185 (26), 55 (95).

*Single-Crystal X-Ray Analysis of 2*. Data were acquired with a Rigaku AFC7R diffractometer, MoK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  0.71069 Å), graphite monochromator.  $M$ , 534.78 (C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>5</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O); crystal size 0.20 × 0.20 × 0.30 mm; tetragonal, space group  $P2_12_12_1$ (19), 293 K;  $a = 12.864(3)$ ,  $b = 30.706(3)$ ,  $c = 7.805(4)$  Å,  $V = 3082(1)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $D_c = 1.152$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $F_{000} = 1176.00$ ,  $\mu = 0.77$  cm<sup>-1</sup>. The data were collected at 20 ± 1° by the  $\omega$ -2 $\theta$  scan technique to a maximum 2 $\theta$  value of 55.0°. A total of 4033 reflections were collected. The intensities of three representative reflections were measured after every 200 reflection. Over the course of data collection, the standards decreased by –0.1%. The structure was solved by direct methods [9] and expanded by the Fourier technique [10]. The non-H atoms were refined anisotropically. H-Atoms were included but not refined.

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