Two Novel ent-Abietane Diterpenoids from Isodon xerophilus

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The tow novel *ent*-abietane diterpenoids **1** and **2**, named xerophilusins R and S, respectively (= (11β) -6,11-dihydroxy-7,20-dioxo-*ent*-abieta-5,8(14),15(17)-trien-16-oic acid δ -lactone and (11 β ,15S)-6,11,17-trihydroxy-7,20-dioxo-*ent*-abieta-5,8(14)-dien-16-oic acid δ -lactone, resp.), were isolated from *Isodon xerophilus* (C. J. Wu et H. W. L1) H. HARA. Their structures were established by spectroscopic means.

1. Introduction. – *Isodon xerophilus* (C. Y. WU et H. W. LI) H. HARA, a perennial shrub native to Yunnan province [1], belongs to the genus *Isodon*, which has been recognized to be rich in *ent*-kaurane diterpenoids [2][3]. Through bioassay experiments, the AcOEt extract of the leaves of *I. xerophilus* was found to demonstrate significant inhibitory effects on human tumor CEM, MKN-28, Tca8113, T-24, and CA cell lines with $IC_{50} < 29 \,\mu\text{g/ml}$, which suggested that it has a strong and broad cytotoxicity *in vitro* [4]. Further studies revealed that the AcOEt extract of *I. xerophilus* significantly inhibited the growth of transplanted tumors in mice *in vivo*, while the acute toxicity of it was low [4].

Previous investigations of the AcOEt extracts has already led to the discovery of a series of new and known *ent*-kaurane diterpenoids which are quite relevant to the above antitumor activities and are promising active components of this plant [5-8]. In our ongoing efforts toward searching for minor antitumor *ent*-kaurane diterpenoids, we examined the AcOEt extract of the leaves of *I. xerophilus*, which was collected in Yuanyang County of Yunnan Province in September 1999. As a result, the two novel *ent*-abietane diterpenoids 1 and 2, named xerophilusins R and S, were isolated and identified. This is the first time that *ent*-abietane diterpenoids were isolated from *I. xerophilus*.

2. Results and Discussion. – Compound **1**, a white powder, showed a molecular-ion peak at m/z 342 (M^+) in its EI-MS, consistent with a molecular formula $C_{20}H_{22}O_5$, as confirmed by its HR-EI-MS (M^+ found: 342.1457; calc.: 342.1467) and NMR spectra. Such a molecular formula corresponds to ten degrees of unsaturation. The UV absorptions (309 (3.59), 242 (3.46), 207.5 (3.93) nm) indicated the presence of conjugated systems, including the conjugation of a carbonyl group with an exocyclic methylene group (242 (3.46) nm). The IR spectrum showed the absorptions at 3392 cm⁻¹ for OH groups, at 1716 and 1658 cm⁻¹ for carbonyl groups, and at 1632 for C=C bonds. The 1 H- and 1 3C-NMR data suggested that compound **1** was a diterpenoid. As all the diterpenoids reported so far from *I. xerophilus* were of the *ent*-kaurane type,

and based on the characteristic NMR signals of an exocyclic methylene group ($\delta(C)$ 127.6 (t); $\delta(H)$ 6.40 and 5.51 (2s, 2 H)) and an aldehyde group ($\delta(C)$ 203.3 (d); $\delta(H)$ 9.59 (s, 1 H)), compound 1 was originally proposed to be an ent-kaur-16-en-20-al diterpenoid [9]. Normally, ent-kaurane diterpenoids show three characteristic ¹³C-NMR signals of skeletal quaternary C-atoms, i.e., of C(4), C(8), and C(10), in the relatively highfield region. Compound 1, however, contains only two such quaternary C-atoms, as established by detailed analysis of its ¹³C-NMR and DEPT spectra. In addition, the C-atoms of the α,β -unsaturated moiety in the five-membered D-ring of ent-kaurane diterpenoids generally occur at $\delta(C)$ ca. 105-118 (t) for the exocyclic methylene group and at $\delta(C)$ ca. 200-212 (s) for the C=O group, while compound 1 exhibited the corresponding signals at $\delta(C)$ 127.6 (t, $CH_2=C$) and 183.1 and 163.3 (2s, 2 C=O). These data suggested that the skeleton of compound 1 corresponds much more likely to that of an abietane-type diterpenoid instead of an entkaurane-type diterpenoid. Recent studies indicated that, besides ent-kauranoids, entabietane diterpenoids were also present in plants of the genus Isodon [10–12]. Interestingly, most of these reported ent-abietanoids had an oxygenation pattern similar to those of the corresponding ent-kaurane diterpenoids. Presumably, compound 1 biogenetically originates from the *ent*-kaurane diterpenoid ponicidin (3) (see below), which was separated in large amounts in this study. Accordingly, compound 1 was established as an *ent*-abietane diterpenoid, finally determined as (11β) -6,11-dihydroxy-7,20-dioxo-ent-abieta-5,8(14),15(17)-trien-16-oic acid δ -lactone by extensive 2D NMR (including ¹H, ¹H-COSY, HMQC, HMBC, and ROESY) analysis, and given the trivial name xerophilusin R.

Table 1. ¹H-NMR Data (500 MHz) of Compounds **1** and **2** in (D_5) Pyridine. δ in ppm, J in Hz.

1		2		
H_a -C(1)	2.68 (m)	H_{α} -C(1)	2.68 (m)	
$H_{\beta}-C(1)$	$1.40 \ (m)$	$H_{\beta}-C(1)$	1.38 (m)	
$CH_2(2)$	1.62 (overlap)	$CH_2(2)$	1.61 (overlap)	
$CH_2(3)$	1.23 (m)	$CH_2(3)$	1.23 (m)	
H_{β} -C(9)	3.05 (d, J = 2.2)	$H_{\beta}-C(9)$	3.06 (br. s)	
$H_a - C(11)$	5.14 (br. s)	$H_{\alpha}-C(11)$	5.14 (br. s)	
$H_a - C(12)$	1.61 (overlap)	H_a -C(12)	1.48 (d, J = 14.0)	
H_{β} -C(12)	2.12 (br. $d, J = 14.1$)	H_{β} -C(12)	2.63 (br. $d, J = 14.0$)	
$H_a - C(13)$	3.41 (br. s, 1 H)	$H_{\alpha}-C(13)$	3.18 (br. s)	
H-C(14)	7.15 (d, J = 6.6)	H-C(14)	7.33 (d, J = 6.8)	
_	_	H_{β} -C(15)	2.92 (t, J = 3.8)	
$H_a - C(17)$	6.40(s)	$H_a - C(17)$	4.25 (dd, J = 10.5, 3.8)	
$H_b - C(17)$	5.51 (s)	$H_b - C(17)$	4.19 (dd, J = 10.5, 3.8)	
Me(18)	1.59(s)	Me(18)	1.58(s)	
Me(19)	1.29 (s)	Me(19)	1.29(s)	
H-C(20)	9.59(s)	H-C(20)	9.59(s)	
HO-C(6)	10.75 (br. s)	HO-C(6)	10.71 (br. s)	

Table 2. ¹³C-NMR Data (125 MHz) in (D_5)Pyridine and HMBC Data of Compounds 1 and 2. δ in ppm.

·	$\delta(C)$		HMBC	
	1	2	1	2
C(1)	27.0 (t)	27.2 (t)	$CH_2(2), CH_2(3), H_{\beta}-C(9), CHO$	$CH_2(2), CH_2(3), H_\beta - C(9), CHO$
C(2)	17.0(t)	17.2(t)	$CH_2(1), CH_2(3)$	$CH_2(1), CH_2(3)$
C(3)	38.2(t)	38.3(t)	$CH_2(1)$, $CH_2(3)$, $Me(18)$, $Me(19)$	$CH_2(1)$, $CH_2(3)$, $Me(18)$, $Me(19)$
C(4)	36.1(s)	36.2(s)	Me(18), Me(19)	Me(18), Me(19)
C(5)	134.4 (s)	134.9 (s)	$CH_2(1)$, $CH_2(3)$, $Me(18)$, $Me(19)$	$CH_2(1), CH_2(3), H_{\beta}-C(9),$ Me(18), Me(19)
C(6)	149.4 (s)	149.5 (s)	OH-C(6)	
C(7)	183.1 (s)	183.5 (s)	H_{β} -C(9), H-C(14)	H_{β} -C(9), H-C(14)
C(8)	130.4 (s)	130.5 (s)	H_{β} -C(9), H_{α} -C(11), H_{α} -C(13), H -C(14)	H_{β} -C(9), H_{α} -C(11), H_{α} -C(13)
C(9)	51.8 (d)	52.3 (d)	$H_{\beta}-C(1), H_{\alpha}-C(11), H_{\alpha}-C(12), H_{-}C(14)$	$H_{\beta}-C(1), H_{\alpha}-C(12), H-C(14)$
C(10)	55.3 (s)	55.4 (s)	$CH_2(1), H_{\beta}-C(9), H_{\alpha}-C(11), CHO$	$CH_2(1), CH_2(2), H_{\beta} - C(9),$ $H_{\alpha} - C(11), CHO$
C(11)	73.3 (d)	73.8 (d)	$H_{\beta}-C(9), H_{\alpha}-C(12), H_{\alpha}-C(13)$	H_{β} -C(9), H_{α} -C(12), H_{α} -C(13)
C(12)	26.9 (t)	23.5 (t)	$H_{\beta}-C(9), H_{\alpha}-C(11), H_{\alpha}-C(13), H-C(14)$	H_{β} -C(9), H_{α} -C(11), H_{α} -C(13), H -C(14)
C(13)	33.8 (d)	28.8 (d)	H_a -C(11), $CH_2(12)$, H -C(14), $CH_2(17)$	H_{α} -C(11), H-C(14), CH ₂ (17)
C(14)	135.9 (d)	138.9 (<i>d</i>)	H_{β} -C(9), H_{α} -C(12), H_{α} -C(13), CH ₂ (17)	$H_{\beta}-C(9), H_{\alpha}-C(12), H_{\alpha}-C(13)$
C(15)	134.8 (s)	47.3(d)	$H_a - C(13), CH_2(17)$	$H_{\beta}-C(12), H_{\alpha}-C(13), CH_{2}(17)$
C(16)	163.3 (s)	170.9 (s)	H_{α} -C(11), H_{α} -C(13), CH_{2} (17)	$H_{\alpha}-C(11), H_{\alpha}-C(13), H_{\beta}-C(15), CH_{2}(17)$
C(17)	127.6(t)	64.2(t)	H_a -C(13)	$H_a - C(13), H_\beta - C(15)$
C(18)	27.2(q)	27.4 (q)	$CH_2(3), Me(19)$	$CH_2(3), Me(19)$
C(19)	26.8 (q)	27.0(q)	$CH_2(3), Me(18)$	$CH_2(3), Me(18)$
C(20)	203.3 (d)	203.6 (d)	$CH_2(1), H_{\beta}-C(9)$	$CH_2(1), H_{\beta} - C(9)$

 1 H, 13 C long-range correlations with C(14) (δ (C) 135.9 (d)) and the quaternary C(8) (δ (C) 130.4 (s)) in the HMBC. The olefinic H–C(14) exhibited a HMBC correlation with C(7)=O (δ (C) 183.1 (s)), confirming the presence of the C(14)=C(8) and C(7)=O moieties. The C(5)=C(6) bond was deduced from the 1 H, 13 C long-range correlations of the two tertiary Me (δ (H) 1.59 and 1.29) with the olefinic quaternary C(5) at δ (C) 134.4. The downfield shift of the olefinic quaternary C(6) at δ (C) 149.4 revealed that the only OH group was attached to C(6). Thus, a carbonyl and an enol moiety constituted a conjugated system, which was also verified by the UV absorption at 309 (3.59) nm. The aldehyde group could be easily assigned to C(20) due to the obvious HMBC cross-peaks of CH=O at δ (H) 9.59 (s) with C(1) and C(10) (δ (C) 27.0 (t) and 55.3 (s), resp.)

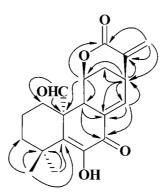


Fig. 1. Key HMBC correlations of compound 1

It is noteworthy that the ester C(16)=O at $\delta(C)$ 163.3 showed a noticeable HMBC correlation with H-(11) at $\delta(H)$ 5.14 (br. s), which in turn exhibited ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{1}H$ interaction with H-C(9) in the ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{1}H$ -COSY experiment. This suggested the presence of an O-bridge between C(16) and C(11). With the formation of this δ -lactone ring, the proposed structure exactly satisfies ten degrees of unsaturation. Because of the formation of the δ -lactone in 1, H-C(11) and H-C(13) could only possess the same orientation. In the ROESY of 1, the NOE interaction between H-C(11) and H-C(20) established that H-C(11) and H-C(13) were both α -configured.

Compound 1, as a naturally occurring *ent*-abietane diterpenoid with a novel δ -lactone moiety at C(16) and C(11), is isolated for the first time. Until now, such a type of linkage is unprecedented in natural diterpenoid compounds. A plausible biosynthetic pathway to 1 suggests that the skeleton of compound 1 is biosynthesized from ponicidin (3), as shown in the *Scheme*. The possible mechanism for the C–C cleavage reaction of the bond between C(8) and C(15) in 3 would be similar to that proposed previously [10].

Compound **2**, colorless needles, giving a molecular-ion peak at m/z 360 (M^+) in the EI-MS, was concluded to have a molecular formula $C_{20}H_{24}O_6$ by the HR-EI-MS (M^+ found: 360.1580; calc.: 360.1573) and the NMR spectra, corresponding to 18 additional mass units (H_2O) as compared to **1**, *i.e.*, one degree of unsaturation less than **1**. Its IR, MS, and 1D- and 2D-NMR data suggested **2** to be another *ent*-abietane diterpenoid, which was structurally very similar to **1**, with the ester C=O group being unconjugated due to the lack of the significant absorption at 242 nm in the UV spectrum. The structure of **2** was established as $(11\beta,15S)$ -6,11,17-trihydroxy-7,20-dioxo-*ent*-abieta-5,8(14)-dien-16-oic acid δ -lactone, named xerophilusin S.

The noticeable differences between the NMR spectra of **1** and **2** were that the signals for the exocyclic $CH_2(17) - C(15)$ group of **1** (see *Tables 1* and 2) were replaced by the signals for an oxygenated $CH_2(\delta(C)) = C(15)$ group of **1** (see *Tables 1* and 2) were replaced by the signals for an oxygenated $CH_2(\delta(C)) = C(15)$ group of **1** (see *Tables 1* and 2) were replaced by the signals for an oxygenated $CH_2(\delta(C)) = C(15)$ group of C(15) = C(15) group of

Scheme. Postulated Biogenesis of Compound 1

(t); $\delta(H)$ 4.25 and 4.19 (2dd, each J=10.5, 3.8 Hz)) and a CH group ($\delta(C)$ 47.3 (d), $\delta(H)$ 2.92 (t, J=3.8 Hz)) in **2**, suggesting that **2** was a hydration derivative of the exocyclic C=C bond of **1**. This was supported by the downfield shift of the C(16) signal from $\delta(C)$ 163.3 in **1** to 170.9 in **2**. Direct evidence came from the 1H , 1H -COSY relationship of CH₂(17)/H-C(15)/H-C(13) and the 13 C, 1H long-range correlations of CH₂(17) and H-C(15) with C(16) in the HMBC spectrum of **2** (*Table* 2). In the ROESY plot of **2** (*Fig.* 2), the cross-peaks H-C(15)/H-C(14) and CH₂(17)/H_a-C(13) established that H-C(15) was β -oriented and the CH₂OH group at C(15) α -oriented.

Fig. 2. Key ROESY correlations of compound 2

Both new compounds were assayed for their cytotoxic effects on human-tumor K562 and T24 cell lines according to the methods described in [13], with cisplatin as the positive reference substance. Compound 1 had significant inhibitory activity toward K562 cell lines with an IC_{50} value of 74.450 µg/ml and toward T24 cell lines with an IC_{50}

value of 0.115 µg/ml. Particularly noteworthy, the inhibitory effect of compound **1** on T24 cell lines was even more potent than that of *cis*-platin ($IC_{50} = 1.155 \,\mu\text{g/ml}$). However, no desirable results were obtained for compound **2**.

Financial support was provided by a grant from the Young Academic and Technical Leader Raising Foundation of Yunnan Province (No. 2003RC07, awarded to Dr. Sheng-Hong Li).

Experimental Part

General. See [10].

Plant Material. The leaves of I. xerophilus (C. Y. Wu et H. W. Li) H. Hara were collected in Yuanyang prefecture, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, in September 1999, and identified by Prof. Zhong-Wen Lin at the State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. A voucher specimen (No. KIB 1999-09-28 Lin) has been deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Taxonomy, Kunming Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Extraction and Isolation. The dried and powdered leaves (7 kg) were extracted with 95% EtOH (30 l) at 50° for 3×24 h, and the extract was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and partitioned with AcOEt (4 × 10 l). The AcOEt part was evaporated to give 400 g of a residue. A part (390 g) of this extract was subjected to CC (silica gel, 9×200 cm, 2400 g; CHCl₃, then CHCl₃/Me₂CO 9:1, 8:2, and 7:3, then Me₂CO; TLC monitoring): five crude fractions. Fr. 2 (27 g) was subjected to CC (1. silica gel (300 g), petroleum ether/AcOEt 2:1; 2. Lichroprep RP_{18} (100 g), MeOH/H₂O 7:3): 1 (34 mg). Fr. 3 (19 g) was further subjected to CC (1. silica gel (200 g), petroleum ether/AcOEt 1:1; 2. silica gel (100 g), hexane/PrOH 5:1; 3. Lichroprep RP_{18} (80 g), MeOH/H₂O 65:35): 2 (6 mg).

Xerophilusin R (=(1 $^{\circ}$,5 $^{\circ}$,12aR,12bS)-1,3,4,5,7,9,10,11,12,12b-Decahydro-8-hydroxy-9,9-dimethyl-4-methylene-3,7-dioxo-1,5-methano-12aH-napth[1,2-c]oxocin-12a-carbaldehyde; 1). Colorless crystals (Me₂CO). M.p. 245 −246°. [a]₁₂^{2,7} = +374.62 (c = 0.33, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 309 (3.59), 242 (3.46), 207.5 (3.93). IR (KBr): 3392, 2942, 1716, 1658, 1632, 1389, 1305, 1216, 1148, 1135, 1101, 1033, 992, 948, 805, 767. 1 H-NMR (C_{5} D₅N, 500 MHz): *Table 1*. 13 C-NMR (C_{5} D₅N, 125 MHz): *Table 2*. EI-MS (70 eV): 342 (5, M⁺), 313 (100), 285 (15), 267 (11), 243 (11), 215 (7), 197 (3), 181 (3), 165 (3), 152 (3), 141 (2), 128 (3), 115 (7), 91 (11), 77 (15), 65 (9), 55 (23). HR-EI-MS: 342.1457 (C_{20} H₂₂O₅⁺; calc. 342.1467).

Xerophilusin S (= (1S,4S,5R,12aR,12bS)-1,3,4,5,7,9,10,11,12,12b-Decahydro-8-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)-9,9-dimethyl-3,7-dioxo-1,5-methano-12aH-naphth[1,2-c]oxocin-12a-carbaldehyde; **2**). Colorless crystal (Me₂. CO). M.p. 122 – 123°. [α] $_{5}^{153}$ = +91.67 (c = 0.30, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 268 (4.08), 250 (4.16), 203.5 (4.41). IR (KBr): 3412, 2936, 2864, 1713, 1634, 1456, 1373, 1243, 1218, 1056, 981. $_{1}^{1}$ H-NMR ($_{5}$ D₅N, 500 MHz): *Table 1*. $_{1}^{13}$ C-NMR ($_{5}$ D₅N, 125 MHz): *Table 2*. EI-MS (70 eV): 360 (8, $_{4}^{H}$), 331 (100), 313 (17), 301 (10), 285 (14), 267 (10), 243 (19), 215 (18), 199 (11), 189 (15), 173 (15), 161 (10), 141 (10), 128 (12), 115 (13), 105 (17), 91 (26), 77 (19), 69 (17), 55 (39). HR-EI-MS: 360.1580 ($_{20}$ H₂₄O $_{6}^{+}$; calc. 360.1573).

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Received February 17, 2004