

Cadinane and Eudesmane Sesquiterpenoids from *Chloranthus henryi*

by Bin Wu^a), Shan He^a), Xiao-Dan Wu^b), De-Kang Wu^c), and Yuan-Jiang Pan^{*a})

^a) Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, P. R. China
(phone: +86-571-879-51264; fax: +86-571-879-51629; e-mail: cheyjpan@zju.edu.cn)

^b) Center of Analysis and Measurement of Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310029, P. R. China

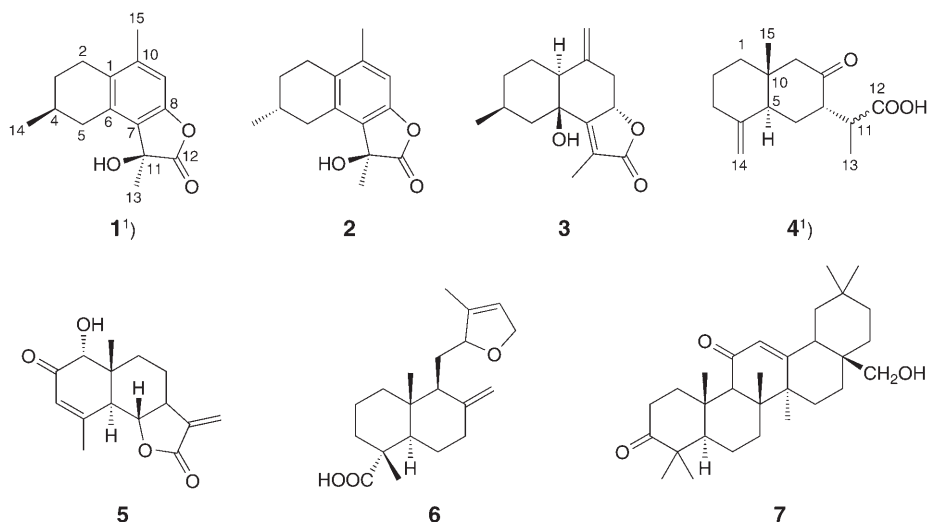
^c) College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nanjing University of CM, Nanjing 210029, P. R. China

Chemical investigation of the leaves and stems of *Chloranthus henryi* resulted in the isolation and characterization of the three new cadinane-type sesquiterpenes **1–3** and of the new eudesmane-type sesquiterpene **4**, together with three known compounds. Among the new compounds, the two cadinane-type sesquiterpenes **1** and **2** possess an unusual aromatic ring B in their molecule. These structures were established on the basis of spectroscopic evidence. In addition, antitumor activities of the isolates were also evaluated.

Introduction. – *Chloranthus henryi* HEMSL., with the Chinese name ‘dayejiji’ and belonging to the Chloranthaceae family, has long been used as a folk medicine in mainland China for removing the toxic substances from the body [1]. Species of the genus *Chloranthus* are known to be rich in sesquiterpenes of the lindenane and eudesmane-type [2–9] including sesquiterpenoid dimers and trimers [10–15]. Other constituents like flavonoids and amides have also been reported [5][16]. Previous phytochemical investigations of *C. henryi* have shown the presence of diterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and coumarins [17–19]. The present phytochemical study of this species resulted in the isolation of three new cadinane-type sesquiterpenes, (11 β)-8,11-dihydroxycadina-6,8,10-trien-12-oic acid γ -lactone¹) (**1**), (4 α ,11 β)-8,11-dihydroxycadina-6,8,10-trien-12-oic acid γ -lactone¹) (**2**), (8 α)-6,8-dihydroxycadina-7(11),10(15)-dien-12-oic acid γ -lactone¹) (**3**), and one new eudesmane-type sesquiterpene, (7 α)-8-oxoeudesm-4(14)-en-12-oic acid¹) (**4**), together with three known compounds, tanapraetenolide (**5**), 12,15-epoxylabda-8(20),13-dien-18-oic acid (**6**), and 28-hydroxyolean-12-ene-3,11-dione (**7**). Compound **3** showed cytotoxicity against the HeLa, A549, MCF, and K562 human-tumor cell lines.

Results and Discussion. – Compound **1** was obtained as a yellowish oil. The HR-FT-ICR-MS exhibited a molecular-ion peak at m/z 269.1150 ($[M + Na]^+$), indicating that the molecular formula is C₁₅H₁₈O₃. The IR spectrum revealed the presence of OH, benzyl, and lactone groups characterized by absorptions at 3444, 1772, 1618, 1494, and 1350 cm⁻¹. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR (Table 1), COSY, HMQC, HMBC, and NOESY data allowed to elucidate the structure of **1** as (11 β)-8,11-dihydroxycadina-6,8,10-trien-12-oic acid γ -lactone.

¹) Trivial atom numbering; for systematic names, see *Exper. Part*.



An aromatic-proton signal appeared at $\delta(\text{H})$ 6.79 (*s*, H–(9)) in the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **1**, which, along with the signals at $\delta(\text{C})$ 110.1 (*d*, C(9)), 123.1 (*s*, C(7)), 131.8 (*s*, C(1)), 135.6 (*s*, C(6)), 139.4 (*s*, C(10)), and 150.6 (*s*, C(8)) in the $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum, confirmed the presence of a benzene ring in the molecule. The HMBC data established the presence of a cadinane-type backbone with an unusual aromatic ring B [20]. The long-range correlations from the signals at $\delta(\text{H})$ 2.52–2.57 (*m*, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(2)$) and 2.74–2.76 ($\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(2)$) to the signals at $\delta(\text{C})$ 28.2 (C(4)), 135.6 (C(6)), and 131.8 (C(1)), and the correlations from the signal at $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.11 (*d*, $J = 6.5$ Hz, Me(14)) to the signals at $\delta(\text{C})$ 31.5 (C(3)), 28.2 (C(4)), and 33.9 (C(5)), indicated the presence of a ring A moiety with the Me group attached to C(4). The ring-B moiety was suggested by the long-range correlations from the signals at $\delta(\text{H})$ 2.52–2.57 ($\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(2)$) and 2.74–2.76 (*m*, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(2)$) to the signals at $\delta(\text{C})$ 135.6 (C(6)), 139.4 (C(10)), and 131.8 (C(1)), and the correlations from the signals at $\delta(\text{H})$ 3.21–3.25 (*m*, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(5)$) and 2.35–2.37 (*m*, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(5)$) to the signals at $\delta(\text{C})$ 135.6 (C(6)), 123.1 (C(7)), and 131.8 (C(1)), as well as the correlations from the signal at $\delta(\text{H})$ 2.33 (*s*, Me(15)) to the signals at $\delta(\text{C})$ 110.1 (C(9)), 139.4 (C(10)), and 131.8 (C(1)). The OH group was located at C(11) (*s* at $\delta(\text{C})$ 73.8) due to the long-range correlations from the signal at $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.76 (*s*, Me(13)) to the signals at $\delta(\text{C})$ 73.8 (C(11)), 177.8 (C(12)), and 123.1 (C(7)) in the HMBC plot. The relative configuration of **1** was determined on the basis of the NOESY experiment. The observation of NOESY correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.79–1.81 (*m*, H–C(4))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.98–2.02 (*m*, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(3)$) and 3.21–3.25 (*m*, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(5)$), and $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.11 (*d*, $J = 6.5$ Hz, Me(14))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 2.74–2.76 (*m*, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(2)$), 1.37–1.43 (*m*, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(3)$), and 2.35–2.37 (*m*, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(5)$) suggested that H–C(4), $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(2)$, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(3)$, and $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(5)$ are on the same face of the molecule, while Me(14) is in the β -configuration. The strong NOESY correlation $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.76 (*s*, Me(13))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 3.21–3.25 (*m*, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(5)$) indicated that OH–C(11) is in a β -configuration, as shown.

Compound **2** was obtained as yellowish oil. The HR-FT-ICR-MS exhibited a molecular-ion peak at m/z 247.1327 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$), corresponding to the same molecular formula, $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$, as that of compound **1**. The UV and IR spectra of **2** exhibited the same general patterns as those of **1**. Based on the ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR (Table 1) and NOESY data, the structure of **2** was determined as (4 α ,11 β)-8,11-dihydroxycadina-6,8,10-trien-12-oic acid γ -lactone.

Table 1. NMR Data ((D₆)DMSO) of **1–3**). δ in ppm, J in Hz.

Position	1		2		3	
	$\delta(\text{C})^{\text{a,b}}$	$\delta(\text{H})^{\text{c}}$	$\delta(\text{C})^{\text{a,b}}$	$\delta(\text{H})^{\text{c}}$	$\delta(\text{C})^{\text{a,b}}$	$\delta(\text{H})^{\text{c}}$
C(1) or H–C(1)	131.8 (s)		131.8 (s)		49.5 (s)	2.04–2.08 (overlap)
CH ₂ (2)	26.9 (t)	2.52–2.57 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 2.74–2.76 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	26.2 (t)	2.52–2.57 (overlap, H _{α}), 2.73 (<i>d</i> , $J = 13.3$, H _{β})	24.1 (<i>d</i>)	1.74–1.78 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 1.79–1.81 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})
CH ₂ (3)	31.5 (t)	1.98–2.02 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 1.37–1.43 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	30.8 (t)	1.90–1.94 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 1.49–1.54 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	34.2 (t)	1.82–1.87 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 1.07–1.10 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})
H–C(4)	28.2 (<i>d</i>)	1.79–1.81 (<i>m</i>)	27.8 (<i>d</i>)	1.81–1.85 (<i>m</i>)	27.4 (t)	1.89–1.93 (<i>m</i>)
CH ₂ (5)	33.9 (t)	3.21–3.25 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 2.35–2.37 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	33.7 (t)	3.01 (<i>d</i> , $J = 17.2$, H _{α}), 2.52–2.57 (overlap)	44.8 (s)	2.25 (<i>d</i> , $J = 9.0$, H _{α}), 1.74–1.76 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})
C(6)	135.6 (s)		135.3 (s)		73.2 (s)	
C(7)	123.1 (s)		123.1 (s)		162.8 (s)	
C(8) or H–C(8)	150.6 (s)		150.5 (s)		79.3 (s)	4.86–4.92 (<i>m</i>)
H–C(9) or CH ₂ (9)	110.1 (s)	6.79 (s)	110.1 (s)	6.78 (s)	44.1 (s)	3.11–3.15 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 1.95–2.01 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})
C(10)	139.4 (s)		139.3 (s)		142.6 (s)	
C(11)	73.8 (s)		74.0 (s)		120.2 (s)	
C(12)	177.8 (s)		178.3 (s)		174.2 (s)	
Me(13)	24.1 (<i>q</i>)	1.76 (s)	24.3 (<i>q</i>)	1.76 (s)	10.7 (<i>q</i>)	2.05 (s)
Me(14)	22.0 (<i>q</i>)	1.11 (<i>d</i> , $J = 6.5$)	22.0 (<i>q</i>)	1.07 (<i>d</i> , $J = 8.7$)	22.6 (<i>q</i>)	1.01 (<i>d</i> , $J = 6.6$)
Me(15) or CH ₂ (15)	20.3 (<i>q</i>)	2.33 (s)	21.3 (<i>q</i>)	2.23 (s)	114.9 (<i>q</i>)	4.99, 5.20 (2s)

^a) Recorded at 125 MHz. ^b) Multiplicities from DEPT and HMQC experiments. ^c) Recorded at 500 MHz.

The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra of **2** showed similar chemical shifts and the same multiplicities of all C-atoms as in **1**, with minor differences, indicating the presence of a cadinane-type backbone with an aromatic ring B and an OH group in **2**. The minor differences of the $\delta(\text{H})$ and $\delta(\text{C})$ of CH₂(3), H–C(4), and CH₂(5) suggested that the configuration of Me(14) was different from that of **1**. This inference was confirmed by a detailed NOESY experiment. The observation of the NOESY correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.81–1.85 (*m*, H–C(4))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 2.73 (*d*, $J = 13.3$ Hz, H _{β} –C(2)), 1.49–1.54 (*m*, H _{β} –C(3)), and 2.52–2.57 (*m*, H _{β} –C(5)), suggested that Me(14) is in an α -configuration. The NOESY correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.76 (*s*, Me(13))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 3.01 (*d*, $J = 17.2$ Hz, H _{α} –C(5)) indicated that OH–C(11) is in a β -configuration, as for **1**.

Compound **3** was obtained as yellowish oil. The HR-FT-ICR-MS exhibited a molecular-ion peak at m/z 271.1308 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$), corresponding to the molecular formula C₁₅H₂₀O₃. Detailed analysis of the 1D-NMR data of **3** (Table I), aided by COSY, HMQC, and HMBC experiments, led to the assignment of a cadinane-type backbone with an exocyclic CH₂ and an OH group, and the structure of **3** was elucidated as (8 α)-6,8-dihydroxycadina-7(11),10(15)-dien-12-oic acid γ -lactone.

The OH group of **3** was located at C(6) (*s*, $\delta(\text{C})$ 73.2), due to the long-range correlations observed from $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.89–1.93 (*m*, H–C(4)), 2.25 (*d*, $J = 9.0$ Hz, H_α –C(5)), 1.74–1.76 (*m*, H_β –C(5)), and 2.04–2.08 (*m*, H–C(1)), to $\delta(\text{C})$ 73.2 (*s*, C(6)) in the HMBC plot. The NOESY correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.89–1.93 (*m*, H–C(4))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.82–1.87 (*m*, H_α –C(3)) and 2.25 (*d*, $J = 9.0$ Hz, H_α –C(5)), and the correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.79–1.81 (*m*, H_β –C(2))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.01 (*d*, $J = 6.6$ Hz, Me(14)), indicated that Me(14) is in a β -configuration. The correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 2.04–2.08 (*m*, H–C(1))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.74–1.78 (*m*, H_α –C(2)) and 1.82–1.87 (*m*, H_α –C(3)) indicated that H–C(1) is in an α -configuration. The configuration at C(6) was determined by a methylation experiment with **3**. The obtained methoxy derivative showed the NOESY correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 3.38 (*s*, MeO–C(6))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.85–1.90 (*m*, H_β –C(2)), 1.05 (*d*, $J = 6.5$ Hz, Me(14)), and 4.78–4.83 (*m*, H–C(8)), indicating that the two 6-membered rings are *trans*-fused and that H–C(8) is in the β -configuration.

Compound **4**, was obtained as a white powder, and the HR-FT-ICR-MS exhibited a molecular-ion peak at m/z 251.1675 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$), corresponding to the molecular formula $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3$. The gross structure was elucidated by analysis of the 1D- and 2D-NMR data (Table 2) as 8-oxoeudesm-4(14)-en-12-oic acid, the same as that of an intermediate in the synthesis of natural (–)-artemisin [21]. The configuration at C(11) of **4** remains uncertain. Compound **4** was elucidated as (7 α)-8-oxoeudesm-4(14)-en-12-oic acid.

The NOESY plot of **4** revealed that the relative configuration of **4** and the intermediate of the (–)-artemisin synthesis [21] were different. The NOESY correlations $\delta(\text{H})$ 2.57–2.63 (*m*, H–C(7))/ $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.09–1.13 (*m*, H_β –C(6)) suggested that H–C(7) of **4** is in a β -configuration, differing from that of the intermediate [21].

Furthermore, a known eudesmane-type sesquiterpene, tanapraetenolide (**5**), a known labdane-type diterpene, 12,15-epoxylabda-8(20),13-dien-18-oic acid (**6**), and a known oleanane-type triterpene, 28-hydroxyolean-12-ene-3,11-dione (**7**), were identified by comparison of their spectroscopic data with literature data [22–24].

All the compounds **1–7** were tested *in vitro* for antitumor activity against four human-tumor cell lines by using the MTT (= 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-tetrazolium bromide) colorimetric method [25]. Only compound **3** showed antitumor activity against the Hela, A549, MCF, and K562 human-tumor cell lines, with IC_{50} values of 4.7, 8.9, 9.6, and 11.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$, respectively.

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Experimental Part

General. TLC: Merck precoated plates (silica gel 60 F254) of 0.25 mm thickness. HPLC: Waters-600 prep. HPLC instrument, with a Shim-pack PREP-ODS (250 \times 20 mm) column. Column chromatography (CC): silica gel (200–300 mesh), Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham). M.p.: uncorrected; Reichert apparatus. Optical rotations: Perkin-Elmer 341 polarimeter. UV Spectra: λ_{max} ($\log \epsilon$) in nm. IR Spectra: Nicolet Avatar-360 FT-IR spectrometer; in cm^{-1} . ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR Spectra: Bruker Avance-DMX-500 NMR spectrometer; at 500 (^1H) and 125 (^{13}C) MHz; δ in ppm rel. to SiMe_4 as internal standard (at 25 $^\circ$), J in Hz. MS: Bruker Daltonics mass spectrometer; ICR = ion cyclotron resonance; in m/z .

Plant Material. The leaves and stems of *Chloranthus henryi* HEMS. were collected in Suichang County, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China, in September 2003 and identified by Dr. Hongxiang Sun (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China). A voucher specimen

Table 2. NMR Data (500 MHz, (D₆)DMSO) of **4**¹. δ in ppm, J in Hz.

Position	$\delta(C)^{a) b)}$	$\delta(H)^c)$	¹ H, ¹ H-COSY ^{d)}	HMBC ^{e)}
CH ₂ (1)	41.2 (<i>t</i>)	1.26–1.31 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}),	CH ₂ (2)	C(3), C(5), C(9), C(10), C(15)
		1.54–1.58 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	CH ₂ (2)	C(3), C(5), C(9), C(10), C(15)
CH ₂ (2)	23.6 (<i>t</i>)	1.80–1.83 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}), 1.45–1.51 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	CH ₂ (1), CH ₂ (3)	C(1), C(4), C(10)
CH ₂ (3)	37.0 (<i>t</i>)	1.89–1.93 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}),	CH ₂ (1), CH ₂ (3)	C(1), C(4), C(10)
		2.27–2.32 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	CH ₂ (2)	C(1), C(2), C(4), C(5), C(14)
C(4)	149.8 (<i>s</i>)			C(1), C(2), C(4), C(5), C(14)
H–C(5)	48.1 (<i>d</i>)	2.40–2.45 (<i>m</i>)	CH ₂ (6)	C(1), C(4), C(10), C(7), C(14), C(15)
CH ₂ (6)	29.1 (<i>t</i>)	1.23–1.25 (<i>m</i> , H _{α}),	H–C(5), H–C(7)	C(4), C(5), C(7), C(8), C(10), C(11)
		1.09–1.13 (<i>m</i> , H _{β})	H–C(5), H–C(7)	C(4), C(5), C(7), C(8), C(10), C(11)
H–C(7)	38.9 (<i>d</i>)	2.57–2.63 (<i>m</i>)	CH ₂ (6), H–C(11)	C(5), C(12), C(13), C(8), C(9)
C(8)	210.2 (<i>s</i>)			
CH ₂ (9)	56.1 (<i>t</i>)	1.98 (<i>d</i> , $J = 15.0$, H _{α}),		C(1), C(5), C(7), C(8), C(15)
		2.24 (<i>d</i> , $J = 15.0$, H _{β})		C(1), C(5), C(7), C(8), C(15)
C(10)	37.4 (<i>s</i>)			
H–C(11)	52.1 (<i>d</i>)	2.73–2.77 (<i>m</i>)	H–C(7)	C(6), C(8), C(12), C(13)
C(12)	177.0 (<i>s</i>)			
Me(13)	15.0 (<i>q</i>)	1.09 (<i>d</i> , $J = 8.3$)	H–C(11)	C(7), C(12)
CH ₂ (14)	107.8 (<i>t</i>)	4.47, 4.80 (<i>2s</i>)		C(3), C(4), C(5)
Me(15)	17.93 (<i>q</i>)	0.61 (<i>s</i>)		C(1), C(5), C(9), C(10)

^{a)} Recorded at 125 MHz. ^{b)} Multiplicities inferred from DEPT and HMQC experiments. ^{c)} Recorded at 500 MHz. ^{d)} Proton showing correlation with indicated protons. ^{e)} Proton showing long-range correlation with indicated C-atoms.

(zju6985) was deposited at the College of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China.

Extraction and Isolation. The shade-dried, powdered leaves and stems (3 kg) of *Chloranthus henryi* were extracted at r.t. with MeOH (3 × 5000 ml). The extracts were concentrated to afford a gummy residue (321 g). This residue was partitioned in H₂O (3 l) and extracted successively with petroleum ether (4 × 3 l) and AcOEt (4 × 3 l). The AcOEt extract (50 g) was adsorbed on silica gel (80 g) and subjected to CC (silica gel (2000 g) 9 × 100 cm column; hexane/AcOEt gradient): *Fractions 1–11*. Small samples of these main fractions were submitted to testing of cytotoxic activities, with the oils obtained from *Fr. 2, 4, and 5* showing bioactivities. *Fr. 2* was subjected to prep. HPLC (MeOH/H₂O 75:25, flow 8 ml/min, detection at 250 nm): **1** (13.8 mg; t_R 65.3 min) and **2** (12.7 mg; t_R 80.9 min). *Fr. 4* was applied to CC (*Sephadex LH-20* (300 g), 8 × 150 cm column, 70% MeOH at 15°). The collected fractions were purified by HPLC (MeOH/H₂O 72:28): **4** (12.6 mg) and **5** (12.9 mg). *Fr. 5* was applied to CC (*Sephadex*

LH-20 (300 g), 8 × 150 cm column, 70% MeOH at 15°. The collected fractions were purified by HPLC (MeOH/H₂O 70:30): **6** (11.5 mg) and **7** (12.3 mg).

(11β)-8,11-Dihydroxycadina-6,8,10-trien-12-oic Acid γ -Lactone (= (1S,8S)-6,7,8,9-Tetrahydro-1-hydroxy-1,5,8-trimethylnaphtho[2,1-b]furan-2(1H)-one; **1**): Yellowish oil. $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -22$ ($c = 0.001$, CHCl₃). UV (MeOH): 212 (4.31), 253 (2.32), 270 (3.12). IR: 3444, 1772, 1618, 1494, 1350, 1133, 1043, 949, 901. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: Table 1. ESI-MS: 269 ([M + Na]⁺), 245 ([M – H][–]). HR-FT-ICR-MS: 269.1150 ([M + Na]⁺, C₁₅H₁₈NaO₃⁺; calc. 269.1148).

(4 α ,11β)-8,11-Dihydroxycadina-6,8,10-trien-12-oic Acid γ -Lactone (= (1S,8R)-6,7,8,9-Tetrahydro-1-hydroxy-1,5,8-trimethylnaphtho[2,1-b]furan-2(1H)-one; **2**): Yellowish oil. $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -31$ ($c = 0.001$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 211 (4.12), 255 (2.34), 270 (3.33). IR: 3446, 1768, 1614, 1490, 1355, 1130, 1046, 958, 898. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: Table 1. ESI-MS: 247 ([M + H]⁺), 245 ([M – H][–]). HR-FT-ICR-MS: 247.1327 ([M + H]⁺, C₁₅H₁₉O₃⁺; calc. 247.1329).

(8 α)-6,8-Dihydroxycadina-7(11),10(15)-dien-12-oic Acid γ -Lactone (= (3aS,5aS,8S,9aS)-4,5,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-Octahydro-9a-hydroxy-1,8-dimethyl-5-methylenenaphtho[2,1-b]furan-2(3aH)-one; **3**): Yellowish oil. $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +42$ ($c = 0.001$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 226 (4.32). IR: 3440, 3085, 1750, 1640, 1568, 1135, 895. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: Table 1. ESI-MS: 271 ([M + Na]⁺), 247 ([M – H][–]). HR-FT-ICR-MS: 271.1308 ([M + Na]⁺, C₁₅H₂₀NaO₃⁺; calc. 271.1305).

Methylation of 3. Compound **3** (8 mg) was methylated by refluxing overnight with MeI/K₂CO₃ in acetone. The crude product was subjected to prep. HPLC (MeOH/H₂O 78:22, flow 8 ml/min, detection at 210 nm): (3aS,5aS,8S,9aS)-4,5,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-Octahydro-9a-methoxy-1,8-dimethyl-5-methylenenaphtho[2,1-b]furan-2(3aH)-one (2.0 mg; t_R 34.6 min). Gum. ¹H-NMR ((D₆)acetone, 500 MHz): 5.22 (s, 1 H–C(15)); 4.95 (s, 1 H–C(15)); 4.78–4.83 (m, H–C(8)); 3.38 (s, MeO–C(6)); 3.22–3.26 (m, H $_{\alpha}$ –C(9)); 2.29–2.31 (m, H $_{\alpha}$ –C(5)); 2.02–2.04 (m, H $_{\beta}$ –C(9)); 2.01–2.02 (m, H–C(4)); 1.99–2.01 (m, H–C(1)); 2.01 (s, Me(13)); 1.85–1.90 (m, H $_{\beta}$ –C(2)); 1.83–1.85 (m, H $_{\alpha}$ –C(3)); 1.70–1.73 (m, H $_{\alpha}$ –C(2)); 1.68–1.71 (m, H $_{\beta}$ –C(5)); 1.12–1.16 (m, H $_{\beta}$ –C(3)); 1.05 (d, $J = 6.5$, Me(14)).

(7 α)-8-Oxoedesm-4(14)-en-12-oic Acid (= (2S,4aR,8aS)-Decahydro- α ,4a-dimethyl-8-methylene-3-oxonaphthalene-2-acetic Acid; **4**): White powder. M.p. 183–185°. $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +45$ ($c = 0.001$, CHCl₃). UV (MeOH): 228 (3.38). IR: 3490–2500, 1713, 1692, 1640, 1552, 1456, 1372, 897, 796. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: Table 2. ESI-MS: 251 ([M + H]⁺), 249 ([M – H][–]). HR-FT-ICR-MS: 251.1675 ([M + H]⁺, C₁₅H₂₃O₃⁺; calc. 251.1672).

Cytotoxicity Bioassay. The cytotoxic activities of the compounds isolated were evaluated against Hela, A549, MCF, and K562 human-tumor cell lines by using the MTT method, according to a previously described procedure [25]. DDP (*Sigma*) was used as a positive control. All experiments were carried out in triplicate.

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