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Two new pregnane glycosides, $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ -3-(β -cymaropyranosyloxy)-8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxypregnan-12-yl benzoate (1) and $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ -3-(β -cymaropyranosyloxy)-8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxypregnan-12-yl cinnamate (2) were isolated from the stems of *Marsdenia tenacissima*. The structures and relative configurations of the new compounds were elucidated by spectroscopic methods, including mass spectrometry and NMR spectroscopy.

Introduction. – Marsdenia tenacissima (Roxb.) WIGHT et ARN., commonly known as 'tongguanteng', is a traditional Chinese medicine distributed extensively in Yunnan Province of China. Acylated ployoxypregnane derivatives in the fraction of EtOH extract of the stems showed cytotoxic activity against the KB cell line [1]. Since 1990s, Xiao'aiping injection (an extract of Marsdenia tenacissima) has been produced and marketed by Nanjing Sanhome Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Nanjing, Jiangsu, China), and clinically proved to be effective for esophageal cancer, gastric cancer, lung cancer, and hepatocellular carcinoma. Moreover, over forty C₂₁ steroidal glycosides have been isolated from the stems of Marsdenia tenacissima since 1980 [2–6]. Our investigation of seeking new C₂₁ steroidal glycosides from the stems of Marsdenia tenacissima has now led to the isolation of two new C₂₁ steroidal glycosides, $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ - $3-(\beta$ -cymaropyranosyloxy)-8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxypregnan-12-yl benzoate (1) and $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ - $3-(\beta$ -cymaropyranosyloxy)-8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxypregnan-12-yl cinnamate (2). The present report describes the detailed isolation and structural elucidation of these new C₂₁ steroidal glycosides.



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Results and Discussion. – Compound **1** was obtained as a colorless, amorphous solid. The IR spectrum revealed the presence of OH (3442 cm^{-1}), C=O (1710 cm^{-1}), and an aromatic ring (1605, 1455 cm⁻¹). Its specific rotation $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{25}$ (c = 0.04, MeOH) was +85.06. The molecular formula was established as $C_{35}H_{52}O_{10}$ by HR-ESI-MS, showing the $[M - H]^-$ ion peak of m/z 631.3464 ($C_{35}H_{51}O_{10}^-$; calc. 631.3482). Three Me groups at $\delta(H)$ 0.98 (s, 3 H), 1.66 (s, 3 H) and 1.03 (d, 3 H) were observed in the ¹H-NMR spectrum (Table 1), which, in combination with the ¹³C-NMR and the DEPT data, indicated a C_{21} steroidal skeleton for its aglycone moiety. Signals of aromatic H-atoms at $\delta(H)$ 8.11–8.13 (m, 2 H), 7.46–7.49 (m, 2 H), and 7.59–7.61 (m, 1 H) in the ¹H-NMR spectrum, a C=O signal at δ (C) 167.80 in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum, and the HMBC interaction H-C(3')/C(1') suggested the presence of a benzoyl group (Bz) (Table 1, Fig. 1). The position of the ester moiety was confirmed by correlation between H–C(12) and C(1') as well as C=O in the HMBC spectra. The ${}^{1}H$ -COSY, HSQC, and HMBC spectra provided solid evidence to unambiguously assign all signals of the aglycone of 1 (Table 1). The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data of the aglycone were in agreement with those of dresgenin isolated from Marsdenia tenacissima (except the data of C(2), C(3), and C(4)) [7]. Furthermore, the ROESY data showed correlations H-C(3)/H-C(5), H-C(5)/H-C(9), H-C(9)/H-C(12); in addition, the correlation H-C(12)/H-C(20) in ROESY confirmed that the side chain of C(17) was in α -

Table 1. ¹*H*- and ¹³*C*-*NMR* Data of Compound **1**. δ in ppm, J in Hz.

	$\delta(C)^a)$	$\delta(\mathrm{H})^{\mathrm{b}})$		$\delta(C)^a)$	$\delta(\mathrm{H})^{\mathrm{b}})$
$H_{\alpha}-C(1)$	38.90 (t)	1.01 - 1.05 (m)	$H_{\beta}-C(16)$	35.23 (t)	1.60 - 1.64 (m)
$H_{\beta}-C(1)$		1.67 - 1.69 (m)	C(17)	89.20 (s)	
$H_a - C(2)$	33.49 (t)	1.80 - 1.84 (m)	Me(18)	11.81(q)	1.66(s)
$H_{\beta}-C(2)$		1.80 - 1.84 (m)	Me(19)	13.06(q)	0.98(s)
$H_a - C(3)$	78.60(d)	3.61 - 3.69 (m)	H - C(20)	71.44(d)	3.57 (q, J = 6.3)
$H_a - C(4)$	25.81(t)	1.64 - 1.66 (m)	Me(21)	18.94(q)	$1.03 \ (d, J = 6.3)$
$H_{\beta}-C(4)$		1.15 - 1.17 (m)	12-BzO:		
$H_a - C(5)$	46.23(d)	1.10 - 1.13 (m)	C(1')	167.80(s)	
$H_a - C(6)$	34.86 (t)	1.37 - 1.38(m)	C(2')	131.99 (s)	
$H_{\beta}-C(6)$		1.80 - 1.84 (m)	H-C(3')	130.91(d)	8.11 - 8.13 (m)
$H_a - C(7)$	34.01 (t)	1.80 - 1.84 (m)	H-C(4')	129.51(d)	7.46 - 7.49(m)
$H_{\beta}-C(7)$		2.06 - 2.07(m)	H-C(5')	134.22(d)	7.59 - 7.61(m)
C(8)	76.81(s)		H-C(6')	129.51(d)	7.46 - 7.49(m)
$H_a - C(9)$	47.59(d)	1.26 - 1.31 (m)	H-C(7')	130.91(d)	8.11 - 8.13 (m)
C(10)	37.26 (s)		Cym:		
$H_a - C(11)$	24.94(t)	1.76–1.79 (<i>m</i>)	$H_a - C(1'')$	97.06 (d)	4.87 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.7)
$H_{\beta}-C(11)$		1.99 - 2.02 (m)	$H_a - C(2'')$	35.97 (t)	2.10-2.15(m)
$H_a - C(12)$	76.46(d)	4.84 - 4.86(m)	$H_{\beta}-C(2'')$		1.47 - 1.53 (m)
C(13)	58.13 (s)		$H_{\beta}-C(3'')$	79.22(d)	3.57 - 3.61 (m)
C(14)	89.32 (s)		$H_{\beta}-C(4'')$	74.50(d)	3.16 (dd, J = 9.5, 3.3)
$H_{a} - C(15)$	29.91(t)	1.80 - 1.84 (m)	$H_{a} - C(5'')$	71.44(d)	3.71 - 3.76(m)
$H_{\beta}-C(15)$		1.47 - 1.51 (m)	Me(6")	18.68(q)	1.23 (d, J = 6.3)
$H_a - C(16)$	35.23 (t)	1.25 – 1.28 (<i>m</i>)	MeO	58.06 (q)	3.43 (s)
^a) Measured	at 125 MHz in	CD ₃ OD. ^b) Measur	ed at 500 MHz	in CD ₃ OD.	

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H C HMBC ROESY

Fig. 1. Key HMBC (left) and Key ROESY (right) Correlations of 1

position (*Fig. 1*). Therefore, the structure of the aglycone of **1** was determined as $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ -8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxypregnan-12-yl benzoate.

The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopic data of the sugar moiety of 1 (*Table 1*) showed a Me group (δ (H) 1.23 (d, J = 6.3)), a MeO group (δ (H) 3.43 (s, 3 H)), and a CH₂ group (δ (C) 35.97, δ (H_a) 2.10–2.15, δ (H_β) 1.47–1.53), as well as an anomeric H-atom (δ (H) 4.87 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.7, 1 H)). The ¹H,¹H-COSY correlations H–C(1")/H_a–C(2"), H–C(1")/H_β–C(2"), H_a–C(2")/H–C(3"), H_β–C(2")/H–C(3"), H–C(5")/H–C(6"), and the HMBC interaction MeO/C(3") suggested the presence of a 2,6-dideoxy sugar (*Fig. 1*). Correlations of sugar moiety H–C(3")/H–C(4"), H–C(4")/H–C(6"), H–C(5")/C(1") in the ROESY experiment (*Fig. 1*) further confirmed the structure of the sugar moiety. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data of the sugar moiety were in agreement with those of the terminal cymarose of cynaversicoside-D isolated from *Cynanchum versicolor* [8]. Therefore, from the ROESY correlations (*Fig. 1*) and the coupling constant (8.25 Hz) of the anomeric H-atom in the ¹H-NMR spectrum, the sugar moiety was identified as β -cymaropyranose (Cym). Additionally, a long-range correlation was observed between H–C(1") of the sugar and C(3) of the aglycone in the HMBC spectrum. Thus, the sugar was indicated to link at C(3) of the aglycone.

Finally, from the data described above, the structure of **1** was unequivocally determined as $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ -3- $(\beta$ -cymaropyranosyloxy)-8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxy-pregnan-12-yl benzoate.

Compound **2** was obtained as a colorless, amorphous solid. IR spectrum revealed the presence of OH (3429 cm⁻¹) and C=O (1701 cm⁻¹), there also were signals of a C=C bond (1635 cm⁻¹) and an aromatic ring (1578, 1453 cm⁻¹). The specific rotation $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ of compound **2** (c=0.11, CHCl₃) was determined to be +27.27. The molecular formula was established by HR-ESI-MS as C₃₇H₅₄O₁₀ from the $[M - H]^-$ ion peak of m/z 657.3634 (C₃₇H₅₃O₁₀; calc. 657.3639). Compared with the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data of compound **1**, the data of compound **2** (*Table 2*) indicated the presence of an additional C=C bond (δ (C) 146.72 and 119.37). Correlations in HMBC C(1')/H–C(3') (δ (H) 7.77 (d, J = 16.0, 1 H)), C(1')/H–C(2') (δ (H) 6.61 (d, J = 16.0, 1 H)), H–C(2')/C(4'), H–C(3')/C(5'), suggested that the C=C bond is placed between a C=O group and a benzene ring, indicating that the acyl moiety of compound **2** is a cinnamate.

	$\delta(C)^a)$	$\delta(\mathrm{H})^{\mathrm{b}})$		$\delta(C)^a)$	$\delta(\mathrm{H})^{\mathrm{b}})$
$H_a - C(1)$	38.90 (t)	1.66 - 1.72 (m)	C(17)	89.15 (s)	
$H_{\beta}-C(1)$		0.98 - 1.07 (m)	Me(18)	11.73(q)	1.58(s)
$H_a - C(2)$	33.59 (t)	2.00 - 2.18 (m)	Me(19)	13.09(q)	0.98(s)
$H_{\beta}-C(2)$		1.78 - 1.84 (m)	H - C(20)	71.60(d)	3.55 (q, J = 6.3)
$H_a - C(3)$	78.59 (d)	3.60 - 3.67 (m)	Me(21)	18.79(q)	1.07 (d, J = 6.3)
$H_a - C(4)$	25.80 (t)	1.60 - 1.66 (m)	12-Cinnamoyloxy:		
$H_{\beta}-C(4)$		1.12 - 1.18 (m)	C(1')	168.40 (s)	
$H_a - C(5)$	46.22 (d)	1.08 - 1.13 (m)	H-C(2')	119.37 (d)	6.61 (d, J = 16.0)
$H_a - C(6)$	34.85 (t)	1.78 - 1.84 (m)	H-C(3')	146.72 (d)	7.77 $(d, J = 16.0)$
$H_{\beta}-C(6)$		1.31–1.39 (<i>m</i>)	C(4′)	135.90 (s)	
$H_a - C(7)$	33.94 (t)	1.78 - 1.84 (m)	H-C(5')	129.38 (d)	7.61–7.63 (<i>m</i>)
$H_{\beta}-C(7)$		1.78 - 1.84 (m)	H - C(6')	129.97 (d)	7.39–7.41 (<i>m</i>)
C(8)	76.80 (s)		H-C(7')	131.49 (d)	7.39–7.41 (<i>m</i>)
$H_a - C(9)$	47.67 (d)	1.20 - 1.26 (m)	H - C(8')	129.97 (d)	7.39–7.41 (<i>m</i>)
C(10)	37.25 (s)		H-C(9')	129.38 (d)	7.61–7.63 (<i>m</i>)
$H_a - C(11)$	24.95 (t)	1.93 - 2.00 (m)	Cym:		
$H_{\beta}-C(11)$		1.68 - 1.75 (m)	$H_a - C(1'')$	97.05 (d)	4.86 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.0)
$H_{a} - C(12)$	76.09(d)	4.70 (dd, J = 11.4, 4.4)	$H_a - C(2'')$	35.96 (t)	2.12 - 2.16(m)
C(13)	57.95(q)		$H_{\beta}-C(2'')$		1.48 - 1.55 (m)
C(14)	89.30 (s)		$H_{\beta} - C(3'')$	79.21 (d)	3.53 - 3.57 (m)
$H_a - C(15)$	29.91 (t)	1.78 - 1.84 (m)	$H_{\beta} - C(4'')$	74.50(d)	3.16 (dd, J = 9.5, 3.3)
$H_{\beta}-C(15)$		1.48 - 1.53 (m)	$H_a - C(5'')$	71.44 (d)	3.70-3.74 (<i>m</i>)
$H_a - C(16)$	35.22 (t)	1.58 - 1.67 (m)	Me(6")	18.68(q)	1.23 (d, J = 6.3)
$H_{\beta}-C(16)$		1.24–1.28 <i>(m)</i>	MeO	58.06 (s)	3.42 (s)

Table 2. ¹*H*- and ¹³*C*-*NMR* Data of Compound **2**. δ in ppm, J in Hz.

^a) Measured at 125 MHz in CD₃OD. ^b) Measured at 500 MHz in CD₃OD.



Fig. 2. Key HMBC (left) and Key ROESY (right) Correlations of 2

Furthermore, the correlation in HMBC between H-C(12) and C(1') confirmed that the cinnamate group is linked to C(12) of the aglycone. Taking the spectra of HMBC and ROESY together shown in *Fig. 2*, the structure of **2** was assigned as

Experimental Part

General. Column chromatography (CC): Silica gel (SiO₂, 200–300 mesh) was from Qingdao Marine Chemical Plant, Qingdao, P. R. China. Sephadex LH-20 was purchased from GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB. YMC*GEL[®] ODS-A was obtained from YMC Co., Ltd. TLC precoated silica gel G plates were from Qingdao Marine Chemical Plant, Qingdao, P. R. China. Optical Rotations: RUDOLPH Automatic Polarimeter. UV Spectra: Agilent 8453 Spectrometer, λ_{max} (log ε) in nm. IR Spectra (KBr): Bruker v33 Spectrometer; in cm⁻¹. ¹H-, ¹³C-, and 2D-NMR Spectra: Bruker-AV-500 spectrometer; δ in ppm rel. to Me₄Si, J in Hz. MS: Agilent-1100-JC/MSD-Trap (ESI-MS) and Micro-Q-TOF (HR-ESI-MS) spectrometer; in m/z.

Plant Material. The stems of *Marsdenia tenacissima* were purchased from *Anhui Fengyuan Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., P. R. China, in June 2006, and identified by Prof. De-Kang Wu (Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine). A voucher specimen has been deposited with the Herbarium of China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing, P. R. China (reference number: No. 20060628).*

Extraction and Isolation. The dried stems of *Marsdenia tenacissima* (30 kg) were extracted with 95% EtOH (7201) at r.t. for 2 h for 3 times. The filtered soln. was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield an extract (17 kg), which was further extracted with AcOEt (501). After concentrating the AcOEt extract *in vacuo* to afford a residue (408.5 g), the residue was separated by CC (SiO₂; petroleum ether (PE)/acetone $15:1 \rightarrow$ acetone) to afford 154 fractions (*Fr. 1*). *Fr. 1* (79–82) was further chromatogramed by CC (SiO₂; CHCl₃/MeOH/PE 40:1:40) to yield 113 fractions (*Fr. 2*). *Fr. 2* (54–55) was subjected to additional CC (*Sephadex LH-20*; CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 1:1), and final CC (*ODS-A*; MeOH/H₂O 73:27) to afford compounds **1** (8 mg) and **2** (13 mg).

 $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ -3- $(\beta$ -Cymaropyranosyloxy)-8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxypregnan-12-yl Benzoate (1). Colorless, amorphous solid. $[a]_D^{25} = +85.06$ (c = 0.04, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 230 (3.54). IR (KBr): 3442, 2943, 1710, 1605, 1455. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: *Table 1*. The key correlations of HMBC and ROESY are presented in *Fig. 1*. ESI-MS (pos.): 655 (6, $[M + Na]^+$). HR-ESI-MS (neg.): 631.3464 ($[M - H]^-$, $C_{35}H_{51}O_{10}^-$; calc. 631.3482).

 $(3\beta,5\alpha,12\beta,14\beta,17\alpha)$ -3- $(\beta$ -Cymaropyranosyloxy)-8,14,17,20-tetrahydroxypregnan-12-yl Cinnamate (2). Colorless, amorphous solid. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +27.27$ (c = 0.11, CHCl₃). UV (MeOH): 280 (3.73). IR (KBr): 3429, 2943, 1701, 1635, 1578, 1453. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: *Table 2*. The key correlations of HMBC and ROESY are presented in *Fig. 2*. ESI-MS (pos.): 681 (16, $[M + Na]^+$). HR-ESI-MS (neg.): 657.3634 ($[M - H]^-$, $C_{37}H_{53}O_{10}^-$; calc. 657.3639).

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