

## Phochinenins A – F, Dimeric 9,10-Dihydrophenanthrene Derivatives, from *Pholidota chinensis*

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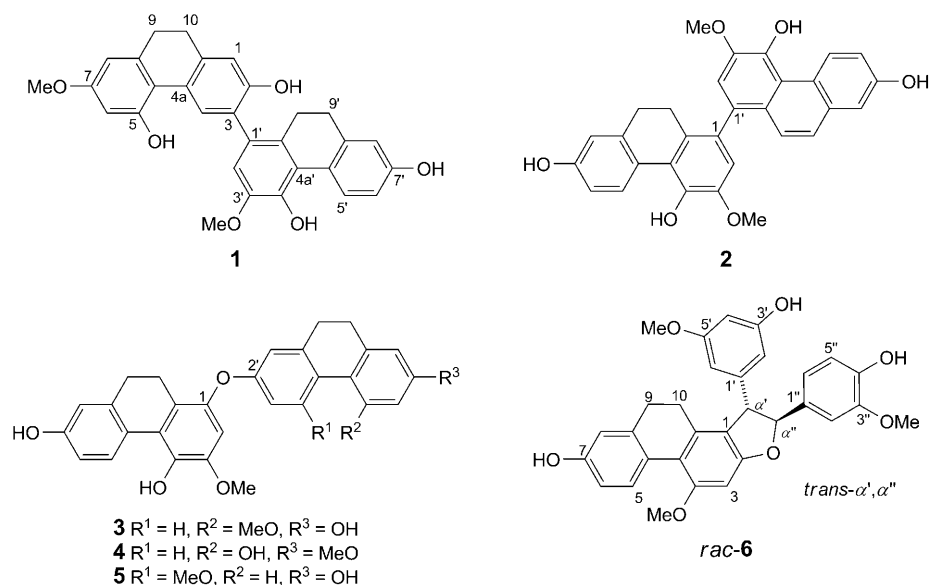
Six new compounds, phochinenins A–F (**1–6**), dimerized from 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene and dihydrostilbene through direct coupling or an oxygen bridge, along with eight known compounds, were isolated from the whole plants of *Pholidota chinensis*. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of extensive spectroscopic investigations (1D-, 2D-NMR, and HR-EI-MS).

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**Introduction.** – *Pholidota chinensis* LINDL. (Orchidaceae), called ‘shi xian tao’ in Chinese, is a perennial herb distributed in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, and Yunnan provinces [1]. The whole plant has been used as a folk medicine for the treatment of hypertension, dizziness, headache, and cough [1]. A marketed syrup made from the EtOH extract exhibited obvious activity to treat headache without side effects [2]. Recently, the EtOH extract of the whole plant was reported to have an inhibitory activity on the central nervous system [3]. Phytochemical investigations have revealed triterpenoids, cyclopholidonol, and cyclopholidone from this plant [4]. A recent study of *P. yunnanensis* ROLFE has led to the isolation of bis-benzyldihydrophenanthrene ether derivatives exhibiting inhibitory effects on nitric oxide production [5].

The present paper describes the isolation and characterization of six new compounds, phochinenins A–F (**1–6**, resp.), which were dimerized from 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene and dihydrostilbene through direct C–C coupling or an oxygen bridge, along with eight known compounds, flavanthrin (**7**) [6], blestrin A (**8**) [7], phoyunnanin D (**9**) [5], coelonin (**10**) [8a][8b], lusianthridin (**11**) [9], 3,4'-dihydroxy-3',5-dimethoxybibenzyl (**12**) [10], thunalbene (**13**) [11], and batatasin III (**14**) [12] from the whole plant of *P. chinensis*. The structural elucidation of **1–6** was accomplished on the basis of spectroscopic data, especially 2D-NMR.

**Results and Discussion.** – Phochinenin A (**1**) was obtained as a brown amorphous powder. The molecular formula  $C_{30}H_{26}O_6$  was determined by HR-EI-MS ( $m/z$  482.1734 ( $M^+$ ); calc. 482.1729). The maximal UV absorptions at 216, 279, and 297 nm indicated a 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene derivative [13]. The IR spectrum showed the presence of a OH group ( $3423\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and aromatic rings ( $1610, 1465\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (*Table 1*) and DEPT spectra, combined with the HSQC spectrum, showed signals for two MeO groups, four  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, and 24 aromatic C-atoms, including eight secondary aromatic C-atoms, six oxygenated aromatic C-atoms, and ten quaternary aromatic C-atoms. The

Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Data of **1–5** (δ in ppm)

	<b>1</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>c)</sup>	<b>2</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>d)</sup>	<b>3</b> <sup>b)</sup> <sup>d)</sup>	<b>4</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>c)</sup>	<b>5</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>c)</sup>	<b>1</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>c)</sup>	<b>2</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>d)</sup>	<b>3</b> <sup>b)</sup> <sup>d)</sup>	<b>4</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>c)</sup>	<b>5</b> <sup>a)</sup> <sup>c)</sup>	
C(1)	115.9	115.2	133.6	135.0	134.2	C(1')	118.7	112.6	114.7	114.7	107.6
C(2)	154.2	99.7	100.6	101.2	101.4	C(2')	99.7	100.1	157.6	156.9	159.3
C(3)	122.6	159.1	156.0	153.6	152.5	C(3')	158.6	160.5	113.3	113.3	99.1
C(4)	133.4	156.3	150.0	152.8	153.5	C(4')	155.3	154.3	130.2	130.4	159.5
C(4a)	140.2	142.7	134.2	134.6	134.7	C(4a')	141.8	135.2	140.4	140.7	142.0
C(4b)	142.3	141.1	140.2	140.7	140.5	C(4b')	141.3	134.9	141.9	142.5	141.0
C(5)	156.8	130.8	130.5	130.9	130.7	C(5')	130.8	130.6	159.3	158.6	130.5
C(6)	101.9	113.8	114.0	114.2	113.9	C(6')	113.8	117.6	99.5	101.9	114.1
C(7)	160.2	156.4	156.8	157.0	156.7	C(7')	156.5	155.7	158.1	160.5	156.7
C(8)	106.5	115.0	115.3	115.5	115.3	C(8')	115.1	112.4	108.6	106.5	115.3
C(8a)	116.6	126.8	125.8	128.6	126.3	C(8a')	127.0	126.0	116.2	116.4	126.1
C(9)	32.4	31.3	30.7	31.0	31.4	C(9')	31.5	128.7	31.6	32.3	30.8
C(10)	31.4	28.6	24.4	24.6	24.3	C(10')	29.2	125.9	31.1	31.7	32.1
C(10a)	127.0	118.1	117.5	116.7	116.6	C(10a')	118.0	117.1	128.1	126.6	118.7
MeO–C(3)		56.4	56.4	55.8	55.9	MeO–C(3')	56.4	56.3			
MeO–C(4)						MeO–C(4')				56.6	
MeO–C(5)						MeO–C(5')		56.1			
MeO–C(7)	55.9					MeO–C(7')			56.6		

<sup>a)</sup> In CD<sub>3</sub>OD. <sup>b)</sup> In (D<sub>6</sub>)acetone. <sup>c)</sup> At 100 MHz. <sup>d)</sup> At 125 MHz.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (Table 2) showed signals of two aromatic *meta*-coupled H-atoms at δ(H) 6.31 (*d*, *J* = 2.4, 1 H) and 6.35 (*d*, *J* = 2.4, 1 H), an *ABX* system at δ(H) 6.59 (*d*, *J* = 2.4, 1 H), 6.63 (*dd*, *J* = 8.6, 2.4, 1 H), and 8.03 (*d*, *J* = 8.6, 1 H), three *singlet* aromatic H-atoms at δ(H) 6.57 (*s*, 1 H), 6.77 (*s*, 1 H), and 8.03 (*s*, 1 H), two MeO

Table 2.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  Data of **1–5** ( $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz)

	<b>1</b> <sup>a)</sup> c)	<b>2</b> <sup>a)</sup> d)	<b>3</b> <sup>b)</sup> d)	<b>4</b> <sup>a)</sup> c)	<b>5</b> <sup>a)</sup> d)
H–C(1)	6.77 (s)				
H–C(2)		6.67 (s)	6.67 (s)	6.54 (s)	6.57 (s)
H–C(4)	8.03 (s)				
H–C(5)		8.10 (d, $J=8.9$ )	8.12 (d, $J=8.5$ )	8.22 (d, $J=8.6$ )	8.24 (d, $J=8.3$ )
H–C(6)	6.35 (d, $J=2.4$ )	6.66 (dd, $J=8.9, 3.0$ )	6.71 (dd, $J=8.5, 2.7$ )	6.67 (dd, $J=8.6, 2.8$ )	6.68 (dd, $J=2.3, 8.3$ )
H–C(8)	6.31 (d, $J=2.4$ )	6.58 (d, $J=3.0$ )	6.69 (d, $J=2.7$ )	6.62 (d, $J=2.8$ )	6.64 (d, $J=2.3$ )
CH <sub>2</sub> (9)	2.73 (s)	2.44–2.48 (m)	2.56–2.60 (m)	2.63 (s)	2.63 (s)
CH <sub>2</sub> (10)	2.73 (s)	2.20–2.24 (m)	2.56–2.60 (m)	2.63 (s)	2.63 (s)
H–C(1')			6.67 (d, $J=2.8$ )	6.58 (d, $J=2.8$ )	6.24 (d, $J=2.6$ )
H–C(2')	6.57 (s)	6.94 (s)			
H–C(3')			6.64 (dd, $J=8.8, 2.8$ )	6.61 (dd, $J=8.5, 2.8$ )	6.46 (d, $J=2.6$ )
H–C(4')			8.11 (d, $J=8.8$ )	8.19 (d, $J=8.5$ )	
H–C(5')	8.03 (d, $J=8.6$ )	9.45 (d, $J=9.4$ )			8.03 (d, 9.5)
H–C(6')	6.63 (dd, $J=8.6, 2.4$ )	7.12 (dd, $J=2.7, 9.4$ )	6.46 (d, $J=2.3$ )	6.33 (s)	6.64 (dd, $J=9.5, 2.6$ )
H–C(8')	6.59 (d, $J=2.4$ )	7.11 (d, $J=2.7$ )	6.38 (d, $J=2.3$ )	6.33 (s)	6.63 (d, $J=2.6$ )
CH <sub>2</sub> (9') or H–C(9')	2.48–2.52 (m)	7.40 (d, $J=9.0$ )	2.46 (s)	2.64–2.68 (m)	2.62–2.66 (m)
CH <sub>2</sub> (10') or H–C(10')	2.44–2.48 (m)	7.18 (d, $J=9.0$ )	2.46 (s)	2.64–2.68 (m)	2.62–2.66 (m)
MeO–C(3)		3.95 (s)	3.89 (s)	3.74 (s)	3.77 (s)
MeO–C(7)	3.75 (s)				
MeO–C(3')	3.88 (s)	4.15 (s)			
MeO–C(4')					3.79 (s)
MeO–C(5')			3.83 (s)		
MeO–C(7')				3.75 (s)	

<sup>a)</sup> In CD<sub>3</sub>OD. <sup>b)</sup> In (D<sub>6</sub>)acetone. <sup>c)</sup> At 300 MHz. <sup>d)</sup> At 600 MHz.

groups at  $\delta(\text{H})$  3.75 (s, 3 H) and 3.88 (s, 3 H), two *singlet* CH<sub>2</sub> groups at  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.73 (s, 4 H), and two *multiplet* CH<sub>2</sub> groups at  $\delta(\text{H})$  2.48–2.52 (m, 2 H) and 2.44–2.48 (m, 2 H). All the above data suggested an asymmetrical structure for a dimeric 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene derivative. The fragment ion at  $m/z$  241 in the EI-MS indicated the same elemental composition C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>3</sub> for the two monomers. A comprehensive analysis of the HSQC, HMBC, and ROESY spectra permitted the complete assignment of H- and C-atom signals for each monomer (Fig. 1). HMBC Correlations of CH<sub>2</sub>(10)/C(1) and C(9), CH<sub>2</sub>(9)/C(8), H–C(8)/C(9), and H–C(1)/C(10) indicated a 2,3,5,7-substituted 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene fragment. The other monomer was found to be substituted at C(1'), C(3'), C(4'), and C(7') by the HMBC correlations of CH<sub>2</sub>(10')/C(1') and C(9'), CH<sub>2</sub>(9')/C(8'), H–C(8')/C(9'), and H–C(2')/C(10a'). The two monomers were coupled directly by C(3) and C(1') on the basis of the long range HMBC correlations of H–C(4)/C(1'), H–C(10')/C(1'), and H–C(2')/C(3), which was further confirmed by the up-field shift of CH<sub>2</sub>(9') ( $\delta(\text{H})$  2.48–2.52) and CH<sub>2</sub>(10') ( $\delta(\text{H})$  2.44–2.48) by comparison with those of CH<sub>2</sub>(9) ( $\delta(\text{H})$  2.73) and CH<sub>2</sub>(10) ( $\delta(\text{H})$

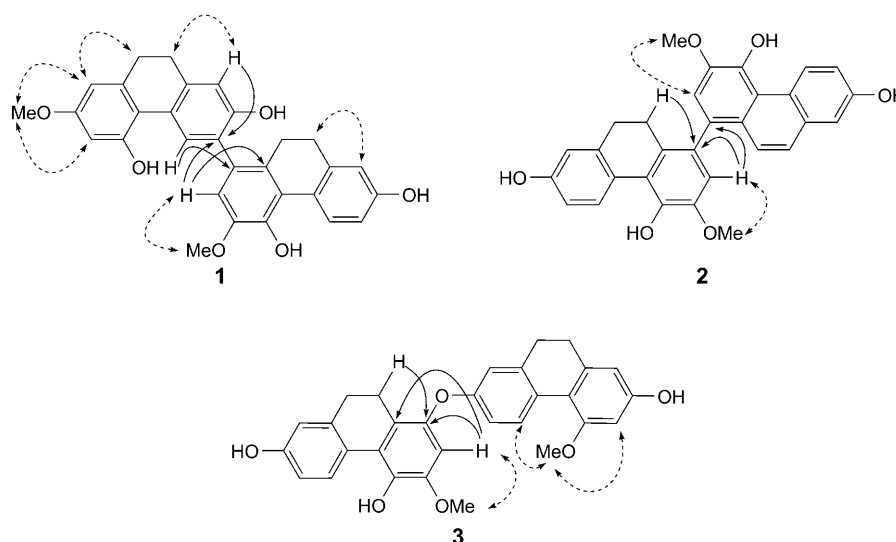


Fig. 1. Key HMBC (H→C) and ROESY (←-----→) correlations for **1**–**3**

2.73). In the ROESY spectrum, the correlations of MeO ( $\delta(\text{H})$  3.75)/H–C(6) and H–C(8), and MeO ( $\delta(\text{H})$  3.88)/H–C(2') indicated that the two MeO groups were located at C(7) and C(3'), respectively. Therefore, **1** was established as 9,9',10,10'-tetrahydro-3,7'-dimethoxy-1,3'-biphenanthrene-2',4,5',7-tetrol.

Phochinenin B (**2**), a brown amorphous powder, showed UV absorptions at 211, 263, 357, and 375 nm. The molecular formula was determined to be  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_6$  by HR-EI-MS ( $m/z$  480.1575 ( $M^+$ ); calc. 480.1573), 2 mass units less than that of **1**. The  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (Table 1) and DEPT spectra showed signals of two aromatic C-atoms instead of two  $\text{CH}_2$  groups by comparison with those of **1**. In the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum (Table 2), the presence of a pair of *cis*-configured H-atoms at  $\delta(\text{H})$  7.40 (*d*,  $J = 9.0$ , 1 H) and 7.18 (*d*,  $J = 9.0$ , 1 H) and the absence of two  $\text{CH}_2$  groups were observed. All these data, combined with analysis of HSQC, HMBC, and ROESY spectra (Fig. 1), suggested a dimeric structure composed of a 1,3,4,7-tetrasubstituted 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene fragment and a 1',3',4',7'-tetrasubstituted phenanthrene fragment. HMBC Correlations of  $\text{CH}_2(10)/\text{C}(1)$ , H–C(2)/C(1'), and H–C(10')/C(1') indicated that the two fragments were linked by C(1) and C(1'). The ROESY correlations of MeO ( $\delta(\text{H})$  3.95)/H–C(2) and MeO ( $\delta(\text{H})$  4.15)/H–C(2') indicated that two MeO groups were located at C(3) and C(3'), respectively. Thus, the structure of **2** was fully established as 9,10-dihydro-3,3'-dimethoxy-1,1'-biphenanthrene-4,4',7,7'-tetrol.

Phochinenin C (**3**) was obtained as a brown-yellow amorphous powder and its molecular formula was assigned as  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_6$  on the basis of HR-EI-MS data ( $m/z$  482.1734 ( $M^+$ ); calc. 482.1729). The UV spectrum showed characteristic absorptions for a 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene derivative at 211, 279, and 295 nm. The  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (Table 1), DEPT, and HSQC spectra disclosed the presence of 30 C-atoms, which were ascribed to two MeO groups, four  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, and 24 aromatic C-atoms consisting of nine secondary aromatic C-atoms, eight quaternary aromatic C-atoms, and seven

oxygenated aromatic C-atoms. Six O-atoms (as indicated in its molecular formula) in contrast to seven oxygenated C-atoms suggested the presence of an ether group. The NMR similarities between **3** and phoyunnanin E [5], a bis(9,10-dihydrophenanthrene) ether, indicated that they shared the same structural skeleton. The differences were the positions of two MeO substituents, which were deduced to be at C(3) and C(5') in **3** by the ROESY experiment (Fig. 1), respectively.

Phochinenins D and E (**4** and **5**) were determined to possess the same molecular formula  $C_{30}H_{26}O_6$  as **3**. Their NMR spectra (Tables 1 and 2) strongly resembled those of **3**, suggesting the same bis(9,10-dihydrophenanthrene) ether skeleton in their molecules. The substitution patterns of 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene were determined by their respective ROESY and HMBC spectra. The location of the MeO substituents were determined to be C(3) and C(7') in **4**, and C(3) and C(4') in **5** by the ROESY correlations (MeO ( $\delta(H)$  3.74)/H–C(2), and MeO ( $\delta(H)$  3.75)/H–C(6') and H–C(8') in **4**; MeO ( $\delta(H)$  3.77)/H–C(2), and MeO ( $\delta(H)$  3.79)/H–C(3') and H–C(5') in **5**).

Phochinenin F (**6**) was determined to possess the molecular formula  $C_{31}H_{28}O_7$  by HR-EI-MS ( $m/z$  512.1842 ( $M^+$ ); calc. 512.1835), with 18 degrees of unsaturation. The maximal UV absorptions were observed at 205 and 282 nm. The IR spectrum showed the presence of OH groups at  $3415\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and aromatic rings at  $1610$  and  $1456\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (Table 3), DEPT and HSQC spectra revealed 31 C-atom signals ascribed to three MeO groups, two  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, one CH group, and one oxygenated CH group, as well as 24 aromatic C-atoms consisting of ten secondary aromatic C-atoms, seven oxygenated aromatic C-atoms, and seven quaternary aromatic C-atoms. The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum (Table 3) showed signals of two pairs of *ABX* systems (( $\delta(H)$  8.04 (*d*,  $J = 8.6$ , 1 H), 6.64 (*dd*,  $J = 8.6, 2.4$ , 1 H), and 6.60 (*d*,  $J = 2.4$ , 1 H)); (6.91 (*d*,  $J = 1.6$ , 1 H), 6.79 (*dd*,  $J = 7.9, 1.6$ , 1 H), and 6.81 (*d*,  $J = 7.9$ , 1 H))), three *meta*-coupled aromatic H-atoms ( $\delta(H)$  6.20 (*d*,  $J = 1.5$ , 1 H), 6.28 (*dd*,  $J = 2.1, 1.5$ , 1 H), and 6.22 (*d*,  $J = 2.1$ , 1 H)), a *singlet* H-atom ( $\delta(H)$  6.63 (*s*, 1 H)), three MeO groups ( $\delta(H)$  3.71 (*s*), 3.84 (*s*),

Table 3.  $^1\text{H}$ - (600 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$ - (100 MHz) NMR Data of Phochinenin F (**6**) (in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ).  $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz.

	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$		$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$
C(1)		120.2	C(1')		147.5
C(2)		161.1	H–C(2')	6.22 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 2.1$ )	106.3
H–C(3)	6.63 ( <i>s</i> )	94.4	C(3')		163.3
C(4)		160.0	H–C(4')	6.28 ( <i>dd</i> , $J = 1.5, 2.1$ )	101.3
C(4a)		138.3	C(5')		160.6
C(4b)		140.8	H–C(6')	6.20 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 1.5$ )	108.7
H–C(5)	8.04 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 8.6$ )	130.7	H–C( $\alpha'$ )	4.43 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 6.5$ )	59.0
H–C(6)	6.64 ( <i>dd</i> , $J = 2.4, 8.6$ )	114.1	H–C( $\alpha''$ )	5.37 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 6.5$ )	95.6
C(7)		156.7	C(1'')		135.0
H–C(8)	6.60 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 2.4$ )	115.4	H–C(2'')	6.91 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 1.6$ )	110.8
C(8a)		118.9	C(3'')		149.6
$\text{CH}_2(9)$	2.48–2.50 ( <i>m</i> )	31.2	C(4'')		148.1
$\text{CH}_2(10)$	2.36–2.40 ( <i>m</i> ), 2.20–2.24 ( <i>m</i> )	29.8	H–C(5'')	6.81 ( <i>d</i> , $J = 7.9$ )	116.7
C(10a)		126.6	H–C(6'')	6.79 ( <i>dd</i> , $J = 1.6, 7.9$ )	120.3
MeO–C(4)	3.92 ( <i>s</i> )	56.8	MeO–C(3')	3.84 ( <i>s</i> )	56.9
			MeO–C(3'')	3.71 ( <i>s</i> )	56.1

and 3.92 (*s*)), a pair of CH groups ( $\delta(\text{H})$  5.37 (*d*,  $J = 6.5$ , 1 H) and 4.43 (*d*,  $J = 6.5$ , 1 H)), and two CH<sub>2</sub> groups ( $\delta(\text{H})$  2.48–2.50 (*m*, 2 H), 2.36–2.40 (*m*, 1 H), and 2.20–2.24 (*m*, 1 H)). All data indicated the presence of a 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene fragment and a dihydrostilbene fragment possessing substituents at C( $\alpha'$ ) and C( $\alpha''$ ). HMBC correlations from CH<sub>2</sub>(10), H–C( $\alpha'$ ), and H–C( $\alpha''$ ) to C(1) ( $\delta(\text{C})$  120.2) indicated that these two segments were combined at C(1) and C( $\alpha'$ ) (Fig. 2). The low-field chemical shifts of C(2) ( $\delta(\text{C})$  161.1) and C( $\alpha''$ ) ( $\delta(\text{C})$  95.6), corresponding to one oxygenated aromatic C-atom and one oxygenated CH group, allowed only a linkage from C(2) to C( $\alpha''$ ) via an O-atom due to the remaining degree of unsaturation, which was further confirmed by the HMBC correlation of H–C( $\alpha''$ )/C(2). Thus, a furan ring was constructed with C(1), C(2), C( $\alpha'$ ), and C( $\alpha''$ ). The three MeO groups were assigned by the ROESY experiment (Fig. 2,a).

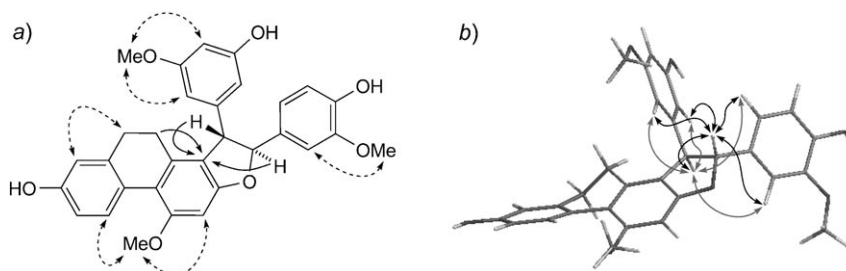


Fig. 2. a) Key HMBC (H  $\rightarrow$  C) and some ROESY ( $\leftarrow$ --- $\rightarrow$ ) correlations of rac-**6**. b) Key ROESY correlations in the 3D structure of rac-**6** that was generated with an optimized energy minimization using MM2

The optical rotation of **6** was zero, and no Cotton effects were detected in the CD spectrum, suggesting that the compound was racemic. In the <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra, the only one set of observed resonances excluded a mixture of *cis-trans* isomers and suggested **6** to be either the *trans*( $\alpha'$ , $\alpha''$ )- or the *cis*( $\alpha'$ , $\alpha''$ )-racemate. The ROESY correlations (Fig. 2,b) observed between the two H-atoms (H–C( $\alpha'$ ), H–C( $\alpha''$ )), and some aromatic H-atoms supported a *trans*-configuration of H–C( $\alpha'$ ) and H–C( $\alpha''$ ) [14a]. The interatomic nonbonded distance of the key atoms on the basis of a 3D model was listed in Table 4. In addition, the coupling constant  $J(\alpha',\alpha'') = 6.5$  Hz was in agreement with literature values for the *trans* configuration [14]. Therefore, **6** was

Table 4. The Interatomic Non-Bonded Distance of the Key Atoms of **6** Based on a 3D Model

Atoms	Distance [Å]
$\alpha'$ , $\alpha''$	3.109
$\alpha'$ , 2'	2.379
$\alpha'$ , 6'	3.778
$\alpha'$ , 2''	3.348
$\alpha'$ , 6''	3.655
$\alpha'$ , 2'	4.296
$\alpha'$ , 6'	2.466
$\alpha''$ , 2''	3.626
$\alpha''$ , 6''	2.533

determined to be (2*RS*,3*RS*)-3-(3-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-10-methoxy-2,3,4,5-tetrahydrophenanthro[2,1-*b*]furan-7-ol.

In conclusion, nine dimeric 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene derivatives, **1–9**, are reported from *P. chinensis* for the first time. To the best of our knowledge, phochinenin F (**6**) was the first example in the plant kingdom that a furan ring bridged a 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene and a dihydrostilbene. The optical rotation data of compounds **1** and **2** were zero, which indicated the lack of significant steric hindrance at the *ortho* positions around the biaryl axis in this class of compounds. A biosynthetic conversion of stilbenes (dihydrostilbenes) into phenanthrenes (dihydrophenanthrenes) was postulated in previous studies [15]. From this work, we can see that such monomers can be further polymerized into a series of 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene and dihydrostilbene dimers probably through carbon free radical and oxygen free radical reactions.

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### Experimental Part

*General.* Column chromatography (CC): commercial silica gel (SiO<sub>2</sub>; 200–300 and 300–400 mesh, Qing Dao Hai Yang Chemical Group Co.). TLC: Precoated SiO<sub>2</sub> GF<sub>254</sub> plates (Yan Tai Chemical Industry). Prep. HPLC: PrepStar SD-1 solvent delivery modules, a ProStar UV-VIS 320 detector and a ProStar 701 Fraction Collector (all from Varian, Walnut Creek, CA, USA); LinChrospher 100 RP-18 (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) column (25 × 220 mm; 12 μm). Optical rotation: Perkin-Elmer 341 polarimeter. UV Spectra: Hewlett-Packard 8452A diode-array spectrophotometer; λ<sub>max</sub> in nm (log ε). IR Spectra: Nicolet Magna-FT-IR-750 spectrometer; ν<sub>max</sub> in cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectra: Bruker AM-400 and INVOA-600 NMR spectrometers; chemical shifts, δ in ppm, with residual MeOH (δ(H) 3.30, δ(C) 49.0) or acetone (δ(H) 2.05, δ(C) 29.92) as internal standard, coupling constant *J* in Hz, assignments supported by <sup>1</sup>H,<sup>1</sup>H-COSY, HSQC, HMBC, and ROESY experiments. EI: Finnigan MAT-95 mass spectrophotometer; in *m/z*. ESI- and HR-ESI-MS: Micromass LC-MS-MS apparatus; in *m/z*.

*Plant Material.* The whole plants of *P. chinensis* were collected in Xichou country, Yunnan Province, P. R. China, in April 2004 and identified by Jingui Shen, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences. A voucher specimen (No. 20050325) is deposited in the Herbarium of the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica.

*Extraction and Isolation.* Powdered and air-dried whole plants of *P. chinensis* (1.84 kg) were percolated with 95% EtOH (3 × 5 l) at r.t. for 9 d. After evaporation of EtOH *in vacuo*, the residue was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (6.0 l) and then extracted with petroleum ether (PE) (60–90°), AcOEt and BuOH (each 3 × 1 l). The PE fraction (93 g) was subjected to CC over SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluted with a gradient of PE/AcOEt 100:1 to 0:1 to yield nine fractions (*Fr. 1–Fr. 9*). *Fr. 6* (7.5 g) was subjected to SiO<sub>2</sub> CC and eluted with a gradient of CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (200:1 to 200:5) and purified by Sephadex LH-20 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH 6:4) to give **10** (140 mg), **11** (35 mg), **12** (45 mg), and **13** (43 mg). *Fr. 8* (2.0 g) was subjected to SiO<sub>2</sub> CC with CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (100:4) to yield subfractions *Fr. 8A–Fr. 8D*. *Fr. 8A* (400 mg) was separated by SiO<sub>2</sub> CC with CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (100:4) and then Sephadex LH-20 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH 1:1) to give **8** (16 mg). The residue of *Fr. 8A* was separated by Pre-HPLC (MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O 28%–60%, 15 ml/min, 290 nm) to give **6** (34 mg). *Fr. 8B* (400 mg) was separated by CC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH 100:1) and Sephadex LH-20 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH 6:4) to give **1** (39 mg) and **14** (14 mg). *Fr. 9* (4.0 g) was subjected to SiO<sub>2</sub> CC with a gradient of CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (100:1 to 100:3) to afford subfractions *Fr. 9A–Fr. 9E*. *Fr. 9A* (800 mg) was separated by Pre-HPLC (MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O 28%–56%, 15 ml/min, 320 nm) and then purified by a Sephadex LH-20 column (MeOH) to give **1** (11 mg) and **5** (48 mg). *Fr. 9B* (400 mg) was separated by Pre-HPLC (MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O 25%–65%, 15 ml/min, 320 nm) to give **1** (80 mg) and **7** (85 mg). The residue of *Fr. 9B* was further separated by Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH) to yield **2** (4 mg) and **7** (30 mg). *Fr. 9D* (430 mg) was separated by Pre-HPLC (MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O 20%–55%, 15 ml/min, 290 nm) and purified by Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH) to yield **3** (57 mg), **4** (11 mg), **8** (63 mg), and **9** (24 mg).

*Phochinenin A* (= 9,9',10,10'-Tetrahydro-3,7'-dimethoxy-1,3'-biphenanthrene-2',4,5',7-tetrol; **1**). Brown amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = 0$  ( $c = 0.3$ , MeOH). UV (MeOH): 216 (4.71), 279 (4.52), 297 (4.41). IR (KBr): 3423, 1610, 1465, 1195, 1161. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: *Tables 1* and *2*. EI-MS: 482 ( $M^+$ ), 241 (16), 227 (9), 197 (5), 181 (4), 165 (2), 115 (2), 76 (2), 55 (2). HR-EI-MS: 482.1734 ( $M^+$ , C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 482.1729).

*Phochinenin B* (= 9,10-Dihydro-3,3'-dimethoxy-1,1'-biphenanthrene-4,4',7,7'-tetrol; **2**). Brown amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = 0$  ( $c = 0.2$ , MeOH). UV (MeOH): 211 (4.60), 263 (4.66), 357 (3.48), 375 (3.53). IR (KBr): 3423, 1610, 1585, 1459, 1209, 1161. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: *Tables 1* and *2*. EI-MS: 480 ( $M^+$ ), 240 (40), 241 (16), 225 (16), 197 (16), 181 (8), 150 (5), 115 (5), 87 (2), 58 (8). HR-EI-MS: 480.1575 ( $M^+$ , C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 480.1573).

*Phochinenin C* (= 9,10-Dihydro-8-[9,10-dihydro-7-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenanthren-2-yl]oxy]-6-methoxyphenanthrene-2,5-diol; **3**). Brown-yellow amorphous powder. UV (MeOH): 211 (4.70), 279 (4.51), 295 (4.40). IR (KBr): 3430, 1627, 1382, 1060. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: *Tables 1* and *2*. EI-MS: 482 ( $M^+$ ), 242 (46), 226 (56), 199 (17), 181 (17), 152 (12), 115 (9), 91 (3), 55 (5). HR-EI-MS: 482.1734 ( $M^+$ , C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 482.1729).

*Phochinenin D* (= 9,10-Dihydro-8-[9,10-dihydro-5-hydroxy-7-methoxyphenanthren-2-yl]oxy]-6-methoxyphenanthrene-2,5-diol; **4**). Brown amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +0.008$  ( $c = 0.3$ , MeOH). UV (MeOH): 200 (5.61), 278 (5.58), 297 (5.44). IR (KBr): 3423, 1614, 1484, 1224. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: *Tables 1* and *2*. EI-MS: 482 ( $M^+$ ), 242 (100), 227 (56), 181 (22), 152 (9), 115 (8), 91 (7), 76 (9), 63 (8), 55 (9). HR-EI-MS: 482.1726 ( $M^+$ , C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 482.1729).

*Phochinenin E* (= 9,10-Dihydro-8-[9,10-dihydro-7-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenanthren-2-yl]oxy]-6-methoxyphenanthrene-2,5-diol; **5**). Brown amorphous powder. UV (MeOH): 279 (4.48). IR (KBr): 3405, 1612, 1459, 1222, 1151. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: *Tables 1* and *2*. EI-MS: 482 ( $M^+$ ), 242 (100), 227 (36), 199 (30), 181 (22), 152 (15), 115 (15), 99 (4), 76 (8), 55 (11). HR-EI-MS: 482.1721 ( $M^+$ , C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 482.1729).

*Phochinenin F* (= (2RS,3RS)-2,3,4,5-Tetrahydro-3-(3-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-10-methoxyphenanthro[2,1-b]furan-7-ol; **6**). Brown amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = 0$  ( $c = 0.3$ , MeOH). UV (MeOH): 205 (4.88), 282 (4.35). IR (KBr): 3415, 1610, 1456, 1199, 1155. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: *Table 3*. EI-MS: 512 ( $M^+$ ), 482 (27), 466 (9), 375 (11), 357 (12), 241 (6), 149 (28), 101 (15), 69 (17), 59 (28). HR-EI-MS: 512.1842 ( $M^+$ , C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 512.1835).

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