Identification of Three New Flavonoids from the Peels of Citrus unshiu

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Three new flavonoids, 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethoxyhomoflavone (1), 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyhomoflavone (2) and 3,6,7,8,2',5'-hexamethoxyflavone (3) were isolated from the peels of mature fruits of *Citrus unshiu* MARCOW (Rutaceae), together with the three known compounds 6,7,8,4'-tetramethoxyflavone (=6,7,8-trimethoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one), 3,5,7,8,2',5'-hexamethoxyflavone (=2-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3,5,7,8-tetramethoxy-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one), and scopoletin (=7-hydroxy-6-methoxy-2H-1-benzopyran-2-one) of which the former two have never been isolated from natural resources, although they have been reported as synthetic compounds. The structures of 1-3 were elucidated on the basis of spectroscopic evidence, including 1D- and 2D-NMR analysis.

Introduction. – *Citrus unshiu* MARCOW belongs to the family Rutaceae, which is cultivated throughout Korea, Japan, and China [1]. The peels of mature fruits of *C. unshiu* have been used in traditional Chinese medicine for treating the common cold and cancer, and relieving exhaustion [2]. Many natural products such as flavonoids and limonoids have been isolated from *C. unshiu* [3]. Some of these isolates have been reported to exhibit anti-allergic [4], anti-obesity [5], and antioxidant [6] effects.

As a part of our research program to find new bioactive compounds from medicinal plants in the Rutaceae family [7], the dried peels of mature fruits of *C. unshiu* were chosen for more detailed investigation of their chemical constituents. Repeated chromatography of the AcOEt-soluble part of a MeOH extract of *C. unshiu* led to the isolation of three new flavonoids, 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethoxyhomoflavone (1)¹), 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyhomoflavone (2)¹), and 3,6,7,8,2',5'-hexamethoxyflavone (3)¹), together with two new natural compounds, 6,7,8,4'-tetramethoxyflavone (=6,7,8-trimethoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4*H*-1-benzopyran-4-one) and 3,5,7,8,2',5'-hexamethoxyflavone (=2-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3,5,7,8-tetramethoxy-4-*H*-1-benzopyran-4-one). A known compound, scopoletin (=7-hydroxy-6-methoxy-2*H*-1-benzopyran-2-one), was also identified in this plant for the first time. In this article, we describe the structural elucidation of the new compounds 1-3 (*Fig. 1*).

Results and Discussion. – Compound **1** was obtained as a yellow amorphous powder. The molecular formula of **1** was deduced to be $C_{22}H_{22}O_9$ by HR-ESI-MS, which exhibited a molecular-ion peak at m/z 430.1269 (M^+). The IR spectrum of **1** showed a conjugated C=O group (1650 cm⁻¹) and aromatic groups (1558 and

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

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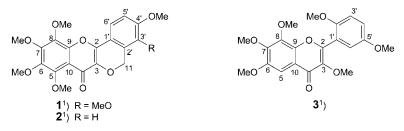


Fig. 1. Compounds 1-3, isolated from Citrus unshiu

1507 cm⁻¹) [8]. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra of **1** revealed signals for a 1,2,3,4tetrasubstituted benzene moiety (δ (H) 7.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H) and δ (C) 118.0 (C(6')), and $\delta(H)$ 6.98 (d, J=8.4 Hz, 1 H) and $\delta(C)$ 111.7 (C(5')). The presence of another benzene moiety, which was fully substituted, appeared at $\delta(C)$ 151.0 (C(5)), 143.8 (C(6)), 148.6 (C(7)), 137.8 (C(8)), 150.3 (C(9)), and 115.4 (C(10)) in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum. The ¹³C-NMR exhibited a C=O signal at δ (C) 170.3 and conjugated quaternary C-atom signals at $\delta(C)$ 145.8 (C(2)) and 136.1 (C(3)). In addition, an Obearing CH₂ group appeared at $\delta(H)$ 5.33 (s, 2 H) and $\delta(C)$ 63.7 (C(11)). These NMR data indicated that compound **1** had a homoflavone skeleton [9][10]. Six MeO groups attached to benzene moieties appeared at $\delta(H)$ 4.10, 4.03, 3.95, 3.95, 3.94, and 3.88 and $\delta(C)$ 61.7, 62.0, 62.3, 61.9, 56.0, and 61.0. To each MeO group was assigned a position by means of NOESY and HMBC experiments. The positions of the two MeO groups at $\delta(H)$ 3.94 and 3.88 were assigned to C(4') and C(3'), respectively, by the HMBCs H-C(6')/C(2'), C(2), and C(4'), and H-C(5')/C(6'), C(3'), and C(4'). The other MeO groups at $\delta(H)$ 4.10, 4.03, 3.95, and 3.95 showed three-bond HMBCs with C-atoms at $\delta(C)$ 151.0 (C(5)), 137.8 (C(8)), 143.8 (C(6)), and 148.6 (C(7)), respectively. Additionally, the NOESY correlations MeO-C(7)/MeO-C(6) and MeO-C(8)/ H-C(6') and MeO-C(7) clearly confirmed the locations of these MeO groups at ring A. The HMBC cross-peaks $CH_2(11)/C(2')$, C(3'), and C(3) and the NOESY correlation $CH_2(11)/MeO-C(3')$ suggested that the O-bearing CH_2 group was linked to C(2') and C(3), forming an additional ring to the flavonoid skeleton (Fig. 2). As a result, the structure of 1 was elucidated as a new compound, 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethylhomoflavone (=3,4,8,9,10,11-hexamethoxy[2]benzopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran-7(5H)-one).

Compound **2** was obtained as a yellow amorphous powder and gave a molecular-ion peak at m/z 400.1161 (M^+) in the HR-ESI-MS, corresponding to a molecular formula $C_{21}H_{20}O_8$. The IR spectrum of **2** exhibited strong absorption bands of a conjugated C=O group (1648 cm⁻¹) and aromatic groups (1556 and 1505 cm⁻¹) [8]. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data were similar to those of **1**, except for some signals arising from ring *B*. Compound **2** showed *ABX* signals for a benzene moiety at $\delta(H)$ 7.77 (d, J = 8.5 Hz; $\delta(C)$ 123.5 (C(6'))), 6.98 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.0 Hz; $\delta(C)$ 114.1 (C(5'))), and 6.73 (d, J = 2.0 Hz; $\delta(C)$ 110.3 (C(3'))), instead of two *ortho*-coupled H-atom of a benzene moiety as observed for **1**. The HMBCs H–C(5')/C(4'), H–C(6')/C(4'), and H–C(3')/C(4') and the NOESY correlations CH₂(11)/H–C(3') and MeO–C(4')/H–C(5') and H–C(3') provided evidence that only one MeO group was located at ring *B* of compound **2**

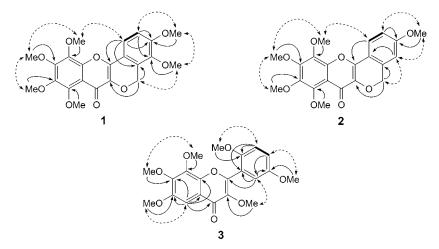


Fig. 2. Important ¹H,¹H-COSY (-), NOESY (H \leftrightarrow H), and HMBC (H \rightarrow C) features of 1–3

(*Fig. 2*). Therefore, the structure of **2** was determined as a new compound, 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyhomoflavone (= 3,8,9,10,11-pentamethoxy[2]benzopyrano[4,3-b][1]-benzopyran-7(5H)-one).

Compound 3 was isolated as a pale yellow powder and possessed a molecular formula $C_{21}H_{22}O_8$, as determined by HR-ESI-MS (m/z 402.1317 (M^+)). In the IR spectrum of 3, characteristic absorption bands for a conjugated C=O group (1642 cm^{-1}) and aromatic groups (1606, 1512, 1462 cm⁻¹) appeared [8]. In the ¹H-NMR spectra of 3, ABX signals of benzene moiety were present at $\delta(H)$ 7.71 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.70 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), and 6.99 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H), corresponding to the $\delta(C)$ 121.7 (C(4')), 110.9 (C(3')), and 111.4 (C(6')). Four quaternary aromatic C-atoms appeared at $\delta(C)$ 140.8 (C(3)), 157.7 (C(6)), 140.2 (C(7)), and 152.4 (C(8)), evidence for the existence of another benzene moiety. Additional observations of a conjugated C=O group at $\delta(C)$ 173.7 (C(4)) together with quaternary C-atom signals at $\delta(C)$ 153.3 (C(2)), 153.6 (C(9)), and 113.1 (C(10)) suggested that the molecule had a flavonoid structure. Another aromatic H-atom appeared at $\delta(H)$ 6.75 (s, 1 H) in the ¹H-NMR spectrum and was positioned at C(5) by the HMBCs H–C(5)/C(6), C(7), C(9), C(10), and C(4). In addition, this H-atom did not show any NOE with MeO-C(2'). A total of six MeO groups at benzene moieties appeared at $\delta(H)$ 4.02 (s, 3 H), 3.98 (s, 3 H), 3.97 $(s, 6 \text{ H}), 3.92 (s, 3 \text{ H}), \text{ and } 3.87 (s, 3 \text{ H}) \text{ and } \delta(\text{C}) 62.2, 56.3, 56.1, 56.0, 61.6, \text{ and } 60.0$. The NOESY and HMBC data were employed to decide the assignment of these MeO groups. One of the two MeO groups at $\delta(H)$ 3.97 (s, 6 H) showed connectivities to $\delta(C)$ 148.7 (C(5')), and the other to 151.0 (C(2')) in the HMBC spectrum. Further HMBC analysis revealed the correlations (H-C(3')/C(5'), C(1'), and C(2'), H-C(4')/C(6'), andH-C(6')/C(2'), C(1'), C(2), C(4'), and C(5'), and the NOESY MeO-C(2')/H-C(3'), and MeO–C(5')/H–C(4') and H–C(6'), confirmed the presence of the 2',5'-dimethoxybenzene moiety (ring B) of flavones. Other MeO signals at $\delta(H)$ 4.01 (s, 3 H), 3.98 (s, 3 H), and 3.92 (s, 3 H), exhibited three-bond HMBCs with C-atom signals at $\delta(C)$ 157.7 (C(6)), 140.2 (C(7)), and 152.4 (C(8)), respectively. Their positions were confirmed as

being attached to ring A of flavones, as evidenced by the HMBC cross-peaks H–C(5)/C(6), C(7), C(9), C(10), and C(4), as well as by the NOESY correlations MeO–C(6)/H–C(5) and MeO–C(7)/MeO–C(8). The remaining unassigned MeO group was placed at C(3) of ring C, supported by a three-bond HMBC cross-peak at δ (H) 3.87 (s, 3 H)/ δ (C) 140.8 (C(3)) and the NOESY correlations MeO–C(3)/H–C(6'). Comparison of the spectral data with 3,5,6,7,8,3',4'-heptamethoxyflavone indicated that these compounds shared similar flavone structures, with the exception of different locations and numbers of MeO groups in their structure (*Fig. 2*) [11]. A detailed analysis of the NMR spectra revealed the structure of **3** as a new compound, *i.e.*, 3,6,7,8,2',5'-hexamethoxyflavone (=2-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3,6,7,8-tetramethoxy-4H-1-benzo-pyran-4-one).

The three known compounds were identified as 6,7,8,4'-tetramethoxyflavone (=6,7,8-trimethoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4*H*-1-benzopyran-4-one) [12], 3,5,7,8,2',5'-hexamethoxyflavone (=2-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3,5,7,8-tetramethoxy-4*H*-1-benzopyran-4-one) [13], and scopoletin (=7-hydroxy-6-methoxy-2*H*-1-benzopyran-2-one) [14], respectively. The structures of the former two were deduced by analysis of their ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR, ¹H,¹H-COSY, NOESY, HSQC, and HMBC data; they have never been isolated from natural sources, but have previously been reported as synthetic compounds. Scopoletin was isolated from *C. unshiu* for the first time. The structures of the three known compounds were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectroscopic data with those reported previously [12–14].

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Experimental Part

General. Column chromatography (CC): silica gel (SiO₂, 230–400 mesh; *Merck*, Germany) and Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, UK). TLC: silica gel 60 F_{254} and RP-18 F254s silica gel plates (Merck, Germany); detection under UV light and by spraying with 10% aq. H₂SO₄ soln., followed by heating at 120° for 5 min. HPLC: prep. HPLC Acme 9000 (Young Lin, Republic of Korea) equipped with a 5-ODS-H column (S-5 µm, 250 mm × 20 mm; Chemco, Japan); $t_{\rm R}$ in min. UV Spectra: Hitachi U3000 spectrophotometer; $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (log ε) in nm. IR Spectra: Bio-Rad-FTS-135-FT-IR spectrometer; KBr pellets; $\tilde{\nu}$ in cm⁻¹. NMR Spectra: Varian-Unity-Inova-400 FT-NMR instrument; δ in ppm rel. to Me₄Si as internal standard, J in Hz. HR-EI-MS: Agilent-6220 accurate-mass TOF LC/MS system; in m/z.

Plant Material. The peels of mature fruits of *Citrus unshiu* MARCOW (Rutaceae) were purchased in May 2009 from the *Insan Oriental Herbal Market* in Seoul, South Korea. The sample was identified by Dr. *Je-Hyun Lee* (College of Oriental Medicine, Dongguk University, Korea). A voucher specimen (No. EA293) was deposited with the Natural Product Chemistry Laboratory, College of Pharmacy, Ewha Womans University, Korea.

Extraction and Isolation. The dried peels of mature fruits of *C. unshiu* (10 kg) were extracted with MeOH at r.t. (6×24 l, overnight). The extract was concentrated at 40° to afford a MeOH-soluble residue (5640.05 g). The aq. soln. was defatted with hexane (3×44 l) and subsequently partitioned with AcOEt (3×44 l) and BuOH (3×30 l). The AcOEt extract (200.53 g) was subjected to CC (SiO₂ (2 kg), 0.1 \rightarrow 50% MeOH/CHCl₃): *Fractions* 1–33. *Fr.* 19 (10.06 g) was subjected to CC (SiO₂ (200 g), 0.1 \rightarrow 50%

acetone/hexane $\rightarrow 0.1 - 50\%$ MeOH/CHCl₃): *Frs. 19-1 - 19-40. Frs. 19-19* (0.893 g) was subjected again to CC (*Sephadex LH-20* (100 g), 100% MeOH): *scopoletin* (1.32 mg) and *Frs. 19-19-1 - 19-19-3. Frs. 19-19-3* (0.174 g) was purified by prep. HPLC (*RP-C*₁₈, MeOH/H₂O 70:30; 2 ml/min): **1** (t_R 90; 0.60 mg), **2** (t_R 100; 0.26 mg), and **3** (t_R 63; 6.19 mg). The mixture of *Fr. 19-12* and *Fr. 19-13* (1.183 g) was subjected to CC (SiO₂ (150 g), 0.1 \rightarrow 50% acetone/hexane): *Frs. 19-12-3 - 1 - 19-12-3* (0.682 g) was subjected to CC (SiO₂ (150 g), 0.1 \rightarrow 50% MeOH/CHCl₃): *Frs. 19-12-3 - 1 - 19-12-3 - 4. Fr. 19-12-3 - 2* (0.50 g) was purified by prep. HPLC (*RP-C*₁₈ MeOH/H₂O 75:35; 2 ml/min): 6,7,8,4-tetramethoxyflavone (t_R 110; 1.18 mg). *Fr. 19-21 - (0.203 g)* was subjected to CC (SiO₂ (100 g), 0.1 \rightarrow 50% MeOH/CHCl₃): *Frs. 19-21-3 - 5* (0.682 g), MeOH/CHCl₃): *Frs. 19-21-10. Frs. 19-21-10. Frs. 19-21-5* (46.64 mg) was again subjected to CC (*ODS-A* (80 g), MeOH/H₂O 7:3 - 9:1): 3,5,7,8,2',5'-hexamethoxyflavone (1.18 mg).

5,6,7,8,3',4'-Hexamethoxyhomoflavone (=3,4,8,9,10,11-Hexamethoxy[2]benzopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran-7(5H)-one; **1**): Pale yellow amorphous powder. UV (MeOH): 364 (3.97), 256 (4.03), 205 (4.31). IR (KBr): 2920, 1650, 1558, 1508, 1209. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 7.55 (d, J = 8.4, H–C(6')); 6.98 (d, J = 8.4, H–C(5')); 5.33 (s, CH₂(11)); 4.10 (s, MeO–C(5)); 4.03 (s, MeO–C(8)); 3.95 (s, MeO–C(6)); 3.95 (s, MeO–C(7)); 3.94 (s, MeO–C(4')); 3.88 (s, MeO–C(3')). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 170.3 (C(4)); 155.3 (C(4')); 151.0 (C(5)); 150.3 (C(9)); 148.6 (C(7)); 145.8 (C(2)); 144.3 (C(3')); 143.8 (C(6)); 137.8 (C(8)); 136.1 (C(3)); 126.1 (C(2')); 118.3 (s, C(1')); 118.0 (s, C(6')); 115.4 (C(10)); 111.7 (C(5')); 63.7 (C(11)); 62.3 (MeO–C(7)); 62.0 (MeO–C(8)); 61.9 (MeO–C(6)); 61.7 (MeO–C(5)); 61.0 (MeO–C(3')); 56.0 (MeO–C(4')). HR-ESI-MS: 430.1269 (M^+ , C₂₂H₂₂O₃+; calc. 430.1264).

5,6,7,8,4'-Pentamethoxyhomoflavone (= 3,8,9,10,11-Pentamethoxy[2]benzopyrano[4,3-b][1]benzopyran-7(5H)-one; **2**): Yellow amorphous powder. UV (MeOH): 367 (4.30), 273 (4.34). IR (KBr): 2919, 1648, 1556, 1506. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): 7.77 (d, J = 8.5, H–C(6')); 6.98 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.0, H–C(5')); 6.73 (d, J = 2.0, H–C(3')); 5.22 (s, CH₂(11)); 4.10 (s, MeO–C(7)); 4.04 (s, MeO–C(8)); 3.95 (s, MeO–C(6)); 3.95 (s, MeO–C(5)); 3.88 (s, MeO–C(4')). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): 170.3 (C(4)); 162.2 (C(4')); 151.0 (C(7)); 148.6 (C(5)); 147.1 (C(9)); 146.2 (C(2)); 143.8 (C(6)); 137.8 (C(8)); 136.0 (C(3)); 134.2 (C(2')); 123.5 (C(6')); 117.8 (C(1')); 115.4 (C(10)); 114.1 (C(5')); 110.3 (C(3')); 68.3 (C(11)); 62.4 (MeO–C(6)); 62.0 (MeO–C(8)); 61.9 (MeO–C(5)); 61.7 (MeO–C(6)); 55.6 (MeO–C(4')). HR-ESI-MS: 400.1161 (M^+ , $C_{21}H_{20}O_8^+$; calc. 400.1158).

3,6,7,8,2',5'-Hexamethoxyflavone (=2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3,6,7,8-tetramethoxy-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one; **3**): Pale yellow powder. UV (MeOH): 334 (4.18), 241 (4.12), 210 (4.42). IR (KBr): 2920, 1633, 1604, 1516, 1469, 1269, 995. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 7.71 (*dd*, J = 9.2, 2.0, H–C(4')); 7.70 (*d*, J = 2.0, H–C(6')); 6.99 (*d*, J = 9.2, H–C(3')); 6.75 (*s*, H–C(5)); 4.02 (*s*, MeO–C(8)); 3.98 (*s*, MeO–C(6)); 3.97 (*s*, MeO–C(2'), MeO–C(5')); 3.92 (*s*, MeO–C(7)); 3.87 (*s*, MeO–C(3)). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 173.7 (C(4)); 157.7 (C(6)); 153.6 (C(9)); 153.3 (C(2)); 152.4 (C(8)); 151.0 (C(2')); 148.7 (C(5')); 140.8 (C(3)); 140.2 (C(7)); 123.4 (C(1')); 121.7 (C(4')); 113.1 (C(10)); 111.4 (C(6')); 110.9 (C(3')); 96.0 (C(5)); 62.2 (*Me*O–C(8)); 61.6 (*Me*O–C(7)); 60.0 (*Me*O–C(3)); 56.3 (*Me*O–C(6)); 56.1 (*Me*O–C(2')); 56.0 (*Me*O–C(5')). HR-ESI-MS: 402.1317 (*M*⁺, C₂₁H₂₂O₈; calc. 402.1315).

6,7,8,4'-*Tetramethoxyflavone* (=6,7,8-*Trimethoxy*-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one): Yellow powder. UV (MeOH): 320 (4.27), 267 (3.93), 214 (4.49). IR (KBr): 2919, 1637, 1603, 1513, 1118. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 7.83 (*dd*, J=9.2, H–C(2'), H–C(6')); 7.01 (*dd*, J=9.2, H–C(3'), H–C(5')); 6.80 (*s*, H–C(5)); 6.59 (*s*, H–C(3)); 3.99 (*s*, MeO–C(8)); 3.98 (*s*, MeO–C(6)); 3.92 (*s*, MeO–C(7)); 3.89 (*s*, MeO–C(4')). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 177.2 (C(4)); 162.1 (C(4')); 161.2 (C(2)); 157.6 (C(6)); 154.5 (C(9)); 152.6 (C(8)); 140.3 (C(7)); 127.7 (C(2'), C(6')); 123.9 (C(1')); 114.4 (C(3'), C(5')); 112.9 (C(10)); 107.1 (C(3)); 96.2 (C(5)); 62.2 (MeO–C(8)); 61.6 (MeO–C(7)); 56.3 (MeO–C(6)); 55.5 (MeO–C(4')). HR-ESI-MS: 342.1111 (M^+ , $C_{19}H_{18}O_{6}^+$; calc. 342.1103).

3,5,7,8,2',5'-Hexamethoxyflavone (=2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3,5,7,8-tetramethoxy-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one): Pale yellow powder. UV (MeOH): 351 (4.17), 271 (4.21), 252 (4.24). IR (KBr): 2919, 1697, 1599, 1574, 1516, 1215.¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 7.85 (*dd*, J = 8.4, 2.0, H–C(4')); 7.84 (*d*, J = 2.0, H–C(6')); 7.01 (*d*, J = 8.4, H–C(3)); 6.42 (*s*, H–C(5)); 4.01 (*s*, MeO–C(7)); 4.00 (*s*, MeO–C(5)); 3.97 (*s*, MeO–C(2'), MeO–C(5')); 3.94 (*s*, MeO–C(8)); 3.90 (*s*, MeO–C(3)).¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 174.3 (C(4)); 156.4 (C(7)); 156.3 (C(6)); 152.3 (C(2)); 151.0 (C(9)); 150.9 (C(2')); 148.7 (C(5')); 140.9 (C(3)); 130.5 (C(6)); 123.6 (C(1)); 121.8 (C(4)); 111.0 (C(6)); 111.0 (C(3)); 109.4 (C(10)); 92.3 (C(5)); 61.5 (MeO-C(8)); 59.9 (MeO-C(3)); 56.6 (MeO-C(7)); 56.4 (MeO-C(6)); 56.0 (MeO-C(2')); 55.9 (MeO-C(5')). HR-ESI-MS: 402.1317 $(M^+, C_{21}H_{22}O_8^+; \text{calc. 402.1315})$.

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