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### Norsesquiterpenoid glucosides and a rhamnoside of pyrrolizidine alkaloid from *Tephrosia kirilowii*

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## Norsesquiterpenoid glucosides and a rhamnoside of pyrrolizidine alkaloid from *Tephrosia kirilowii*

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Four new glycosylated compounds have been isolated from the whole plant of *Tephrosia kirilowii*, including (–)-(1*R*,5*R*,6*S*,7*R*,8*S*)-8-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyloxy-7-hydroxy-6-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-9-methylenebicyclo[4.3.0]non-3-one (tephroside A, **1**), (–)-(1*R*,5*R*,6*R*,8*R*)-6-(2-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyloxypropan-2-yl)-8-hydroxy-9-methylenebicyclo[4.3.0]non-3-one (tephroside B, **2**), thesinine-4'-*O*-α-L-rhamnoside (**3**), and *p*-coumaric acid 4-*O*-α-L-rhamnoside (**4**), together with the known roseoside. The structures of the new compounds were established by means of spectroscopic analysis.

**Keywords:** *Tephrosia kirilowii*; Compositae; Sesquiterpenoids; Pyrrolizidine alkaloid; Oplopane; Tephroside

### 1. Introduction

*Tephrosia kirilowii* (Turcz.) Holub. (Compositae) is a perennial herb widely distributed in China [1]. The whole plant of *T. kirilowii* is used to treat urethral infection, oedema, eczema, scabies, vaginal trichomoniasis, and leukaemia in Chinese-folk medicine [2]. In an earlier work, a pyrrolizidine alkaloid *O*<sup>7</sup>-angeloyl-heliotridine showing weak activity against leukaemia L<sub>1210</sub> cell has been isolated from the plant [3]. Our continuing study on the constituents of the whole plant of *T. kirilowii* led to the isolation of four new compounds, including two bisnorsesquiterpenoid glucosides of oplopane derivatives (–)-(1*R*,5*R*,6*S*,7*R*,8*S*)-8-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyloxy-7-hydroxy-6-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-9-methylenebicyclo[4.3.0]non-3-one (tephroside A, **1**), (–)-(1*R*,5*R*,6*R*,8*R*)-6-(2-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyloxypropan-2-yl)-8-hydroxy-9-methylenebicyclo[4.3.0]non-3-one (tephroside B, **2**), a rhamnoside of pyrrolizidine alkaloid thesinine-4'-*O*-α-L-rhamnoside (**3**), and a phenylpropanoid rhamnoside *p*-coumaric acid 4-*O*-α-L-rhamnoside (**4**), together with a known bisnorsesquiterpenoid glucoside roseoside

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[4] (figure 1). As far as we know, there is only one report about bisnorsesquiterpenoids of oplopane derivative [5] and one about pyrrolizidine alkaloid glycoside [6] so far. Furthermore, compounds **1** and **2**, this type of sesquiterpenoids, were firstly isolated from higher plants. This paper reports the structural elucidation of these new compounds.

## 2. Results and discussion

Compound **1** was obtained as colourless amorphous gum. The molecular formula of **1** was deduced as  $C_{19}H_{30}O_9$  by the  $[M-H]^-$  ion peak at  $m/z$  401.1822 in the HRESI-MS, which possessed 5 degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum of **1** showed absorption bands for hydroxyl groups ( $3417\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and ketone functionality ( $1739\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). Its  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (table 1) exhibited 19 signals including three quaternary carbons, ten methines, four methylenes, and two methyl groups. A carbonyl [ $\delta$  219.3 (s)] and an *exo*-double bond [ $\delta$  148.4 (s), 109.7 (t)] accounted for 2 degrees of unsaturation. The remaining 3 degrees of unsaturation required a tricyclic ring system in **1**.

After acidic hydrolysis of **1**, a D-glucose was obtained and detected by TLC and optical rotation,  $[\alpha]_D^{17} + 40.3$  ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $c$  0.88). The anomeric proton signal at  $\delta$  4.36 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz) in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum indicated that the glucose was in the  $\beta$ -glycoside form. Besides the glucosyl moiety, the remaining fragment contained 13 carbons with two rings. The signals of C-7 at  $\delta$  76.4, C-8 at  $\delta$  86.5, and C-11 at  $\delta$  75.0 indicated the presence of three oxygen-bearing carbons in the fragment. The  $^1\text{H}-^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum revealed a connectivity of C-2-C-1-C-5-(C-4)-C-6-C-7-C-8 (figure 3). Considering this connectivity, the HMBC correlations (figure 2) of H-1/C-3, H-5/C-3, H<sub>2</sub>-2/C-4, and H<sub>2</sub>-4/C-2 allowed the presence of a cyclopentanone moiety, H<sub>2</sub>-10/C-9, C-1 and C-8 revealed a six-membered ring moiety bearing an *exo*-double bond at C-9, H<sub>3</sub>-12/C-11 and C-6, and H<sub>3</sub>-13/C-11 and C-6 showed a (2-hydroxyl)-isopropyl moiety at C-6, and H-1/C-8 indicated the  $\beta$ -D-glucosyl moiety was linked at C-8. Then, the planar structure of **1** was established as a bisnorsesquiterpenoid glucoside of oplopane derivative.

The relative configuration of **1** was elucidated by analysis of the coupling constants and ROESY correlations. In the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, the vicinal large coupling constants between H-4 $_{\alpha}$  and H-5 ( $J_{4_{\alpha}-5} = 12.3$  Hz), and H-6 and H-7 ( $J_{6-7} = 9.2$  Hz) were characteristics of *trans* diaxial relationships [5], and the small one between H-7 and H-8 ( $J_{7-8} = 2.8$  Hz) indicated that the orientation of H-8 was equatorial. The ROESY correlations of H-1/H-2 $_{\alpha}$ , H-1/H-4 $_{\alpha}$ , H-1/H-6, H-5/H-2 $_{\beta}$ , H-5/H-4 $_{\beta}$ , and H-5/H-7 (figure 3) implied the fusion of the five-numbered ring and the six-numbered ring was *trans* and the six-numbered ring was in chair form.

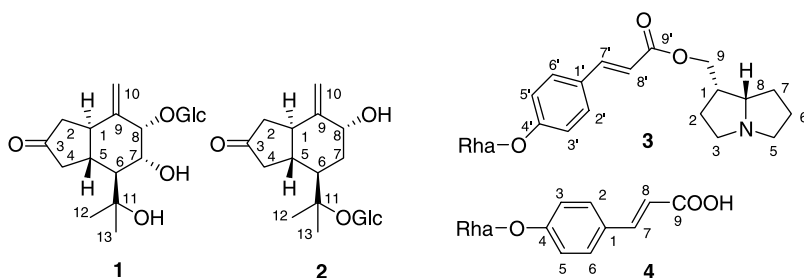


Figure 1. Structures of compounds **1**–**4**.

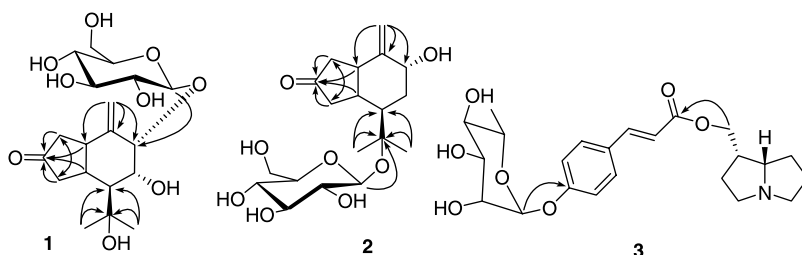
Table 1.  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  (100 MHz) NMR data for **1** and **2** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  ( $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz).

No.	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	
	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$
1	3.10 (m)	44.2	2.83 (m)	44.1
2 $\alpha$	2.29 (dd, $J = 17.7, 6.5$ )	41.1	2.25 (dd, $J = 17.8, 6.5$ )	41.8
2 $\beta$	2.14 (m)		2.14 (dd, $J = 17.8, 13.7$ )	
3		219.3		221.3
4 $\alpha$	2.22 (dd, $J = 17.8, 12.3$ )	48.0	2.44 (dd, $J = 18.6, 12.4$ )	48.0
4 $\beta$	2.55 (dd, $J = 17.8, 6.4$ )		2.73 (dd, $J = 18.6, 6.5$ )	
5	1.58 (m)	44.0	1.63 (m)	47.8
6	2.14 (m)	53.3	2.30 (ddd, $J = 13.6, 13.6, 3.0$ )	46.8
7 $\alpha$		76.4	2.11 (ddd, $J = 13.6, 3.0, 3.0$ )	37.7
7 $\beta$	3.85 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.8$ )		1.39 (ddd, $J = 13.6, 13.6, 3.0$ )	
8	4.32 (d, $J = 2.8$ )	86.5	4.38 (br. d, $J = 3.0$ )	73.4
9		148.4		152.1
10	5.13 (s)	109.7	4.94 (s)	107.4
	4.81 (s)		4.68 (s)	
11		75.0		81.2
12	1.28 (s)	26.7	1.15 (s)	22.7
13	1.24 (s)	30.2	1.28 (s)	25.7
1'	4.36 (d, $J = 7.7$ )	104.4	4.51 (d, $J = 7.7$ )	98.5
2'	3.28 (dd, $J = 8.5, 7.7$ )	75.3	3.13 (dd, $J = 9.0, 7.7$ )	75.4
3'	3.37 (t, $J = 8.5$ )	77.9	3.33 (m)	78.6
4'	3.35 (m)	71.3	3.24 (m)	71.8
5'	3.13 (m)	77.8	3.24 (m)	77.6
6'	3.70 (dd, $J = 11.9, 2.1$ )	62.4	3.82 (d, $J = 12.0$ )	63.0
	3.63 (dd, $J = 11.9, 4.9$ )		3.62 (dd, $J = 12.0, 4.6$ )	

The absolute configuration of **1** was proposed from the CD spectrum. Based on the octant rule for the cyclopentanone [7], the negative Cotton effect at 289 nm suggested that the configuration of **1** is as depicted in figure 3. Thus, the structure of **1** was determined as (–)-(1*R*,5*R*,6*S*,7*R*,8*S*)-8-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyloxy-7-hydroxy-6-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-9-methylenebicyclo[4.3.0]non-3-one, named tephroside A.

Compound **2** was obtained as colourless amorphous gum. The molecular formula of **2** was deduced as  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_8$  by the  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  ion peak at  $m/z$  409.1842 in the HRESI-MS, which possessed 5 degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum of **2** showed absorption bands for hydroxyl groups ( $3418\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and ketone functionality ( $1728\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).

After a detailed examination of 1D NMR spectroscopic data (table 1), 2D NMR correlations (figures 2 and 3), and MS spectra of **2** and **1**, it was observed that **2** was similar to **1**, except that C-7 [ $\delta$  37.7 (t)] of **2** was not substituted by the hydroxyl, and the glucosyl moiety of **2** was linked at C-11 [ $\delta$  81.2 (s)] instead of C-8 in compound **1**, which was confirmed by the correlation of H-1'/C-11 in the HMBC spectrum of **2** (figure 2).

Figure 2. Significant HMBC correlations for **1**–**3**.

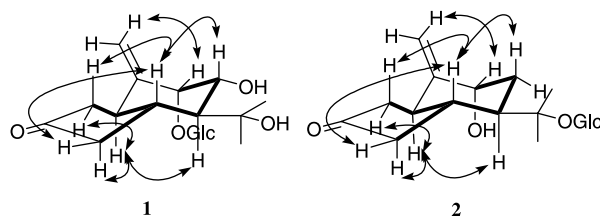


Figure 3. Key  $^1\text{H}-^1\text{H}$  COSY (bold) and ROESY (arrows) correlations for **1** and **2**.

As shown in figure 3, the relative configuration of **2** was established by analysis of the coupling constants and ROESY correlations, and the absolute configuration of **2** was elucidated by the CD spectrum, respectively. Accordingly, **2** was determined as  $(-)$ -(1*R*,5*R*,6*R*,8*R*)-6-(2-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyloxypropan-2-yl)-8-hydroxy-9-methylenebicyclo[4.3.0]non-3-one, named tephroside B.

Compound **3** was obtained as colourless amorphous solid. The molecular formula of **3** was determined as  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_7$  by the HRESI-MS, which exhibited a  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  ion peak at  $m/z$  434.2190. The IR spectrum of **3** showed absorption bands for hydroxyl group ( $3431\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), conjugated carbonyl ( $1713$  and  $1632\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and phenyl ring ( $1603$  and  $1510\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). Analysis of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data and the HSQC spectrum of **3** revealed the presence of three quaternary carbons, 13 methines, six methylenes, and one methyl group. Among them, signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  99.7 (d), 73.7 (d), 72.2 (d), 71.9 (d), 70.9 (d), 18.0 (q) and an anomeric proton resonance at  $\delta$  5.49 (d,  $J = 1.2\text{ Hz}$ ) were the characteristics of  $\alpha$ -rhamnosides [8]. By comparison of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data of **3** with those of thesinine-4'-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucoside published in the literature [6], a thesinine moiety, comprising a *p*-coumaric group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.59 (d,  $J = 8.6\text{ Hz}$ ), 7.11 (d,  $J = 8.6\text{ Hz}$ ), 7.67 (d,  $J = 15.9\text{ Hz}$ ), 6.44 (d,  $J = 15.9\text{ Hz}$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  168.4 (s)] and a 1-hydroxymethyl pyrrolizidine residue [ $\delta$  69.5 (d), 41.4 (d), 64.4 (t), 57.0 (t), 54.9 (t), 27.3 (t), 27.0 (t), and 26.9 (t)], could be affirmed. The HMBC showed correlation between the anomeric proton and C-4'. Thus, the structure of compound **3** was elucidated as thesinine-4'-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnoside.

Compound **4** was obtained as colourless amorphous solid. The molecular formula of **4** was determined as  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_7$  by the HRESI-MS, which exhibited a  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$  ion peak at  $m/z$  309.0982. According to the NMR data of **4**, there was an  $\alpha$ -rhamnose moiety [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.46 (br. s);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  99.8 (d), 73.9 (d), 72.3 (d), 72.0 (d), 70.8 (d), 18.0 (q)] in **4**. A *p*-coumaric group was deduced by the signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  175.4 (s, C-9) in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum, a set of AA'XX' doublets at  $\delta$  7.48 (d,  $J = 8.6\text{ Hz}$ ) and 7.06 (d,  $J = 8.6\text{ Hz}$ ), and two *trans* olefinic protons at  $\delta$  7.40 (d,  $J = 15.9\text{ Hz}$ ) and 6.39 (d,  $J = 15.9\text{ Hz}$ ) in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum [6]. The HMBC showed correlation between the anomeric proton and C-4. Thus, the structure of compound **4** was elucidated as *p*-coumaric acid 4-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnoside.

### 3. Experimental

#### 3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were determined on a Jasco DIP-370 digital polarimeter. IR spectra were recorded on a Bio-Rad FTS-135 infrared spectrophotometer. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu double-beam 210A spectrometer. CD spectra were recorded on a Jasco J-810

spectropolarimeter. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-400 and DRX-500 spectrometers. MS were measured on a VG Auto Spec-3000 mass spectrometer. Column chromatography (CC) was performed over silica gel (200–300 and 300–400 mesh; Qingdao Haiyang Chem. Ind. Co. Ltd.) and Sephadex LH-20 (40–70  $\mu\text{m}$ ; Amersham Pharmacia Biotech AB, Uppsala, Sweden). TLC was performed on precoated plates with silica gel F<sub>254</sub> (Qingdao Haiyang Chem. Ind. Co. Ltd.).

### 3.2 Plant material

*Tephrosia kirilowii* was collected from Guanshan Pasture, Longxian County, Shanxi Province of China, in August 1999. The plant was identified by associate Professor Jin-Xiang Yang, Northwest A&F University, Shanxi, China, and a voucher specimen (No. GS 9901) is deposited at the laboratory in the College of Animal Science and Technology, Northwest A&F University, Shanxi, China.

### 3.3 Extraction and isolation

The air-dried whole plant of *T. kirilowii* (10 kg) was milled and extracted with MeOH at room temperature to give a crude extract. The crude extract (770 g) was dissolved in 1% HCl to form a suspension and adjusted to pH 3. The acidic suspension was immediately partitioned with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Then, the acidic aqueous phase was adjusted with 25% ammonia to pH 10 and partitioned with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to give the crude alkaloids (6.7 g). The crude alkaloids were separated by silica gel CC eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH/Et<sub>2</sub>NH (80:10:1) and purified by Sephadex LH-20 CC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH, 1:1) to yield **3** (5 mg) and **4** (3 mg). The basic aqueous phase after being partitioned by CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was sequentially extracted with *n*-BuOH to give a residue (30 g). The residue was chromatographed over silica gel using CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (5:1) to afford a major fraction. The fraction was separated by silica gel CC eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (92:7:1) and (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/Me<sub>2</sub>CO, 3:1 and 1:1) to yield **1** (100 mg), **2** (17 mg), and roseoside (10 mg).

**3.3.1 Tephroside A (1).** Colourless amorphous gum (MeOH);  $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 100.3$  (MeOH, *c* 2.37); UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH, nm, log  $\epsilon$ ): 353 (1.86), 328 (1.95), 289 (2.19); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3417, 1739, 1077, 1053, 910; CD (MeOH, nm,  $\delta\epsilon_{\text{max}}$ ): 289 (-2.08); FAB-MS *m/z* 401 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>; HRESI-MS *m/z* 401.1822 [M-H]<sup>-</sup> (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>O<sub>9</sub>, 401.1811); <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral data: see table 1.

**3.3.2 Tephroside B (2).** Colourless amorphous gum (MeOH);  $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 78.2$  (MeOH, *c* 0.72). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH, nm, log  $\epsilon$ ): 289 (2.35); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3418, 1728, 1078, 1031, 904; CD (MeOH, nm,  $\delta\epsilon_{\text{max}}$ ): 289 (-5.97); HRESI-MS *m/z* 409.1842 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na, 409.1838); <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral data: see table 1.

**3.3.3 Thesinine-4'-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnoside (3).** Colourless amorphous solid;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 72.7$  (MeOH, *c* 0.55); UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH, nm, log  $\epsilon$ ): 298 (4.22), 220 (4.22); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3431, 1713, 1632, 1603, 1510, 1241, 1010, 979; ESI-MS *m/z* 434 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; HRESI-MS

Table 2.  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  (100 MHz) NMR data for **3** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  ( $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz).

No.	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	No.	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$
1	2.75 (m)	41.4	4'		159.8
2	2.08 (m)	27.3 <sup>†</sup>	7'	7.67 (d, $J = 15.9$ )	146.3
3	1.91 (m)	54.9	8'	6.44 (d, $J = 15.9$ )	116.5
	3.36 (m)				
5	3.13 (m)	57.0	9'		168.4
	3.60 (m)				
6	2.88 (ddd, $J = 15.4, 5.9, 5.9$ )	26.9 <sup>†</sup>	1''	5.49 (d, $J = 1.2$ )	99.7
	1.81 (m)				
7	2.08 (m)	27.0 <sup>†</sup>	2''	4.0 (br. d, $J = 1.2$ )	71.9
	1.81 (m)				
8	2.02 (m)	69.5	3''	3.83 (dd, $J = 9.5, 3.4$ )	72.2
	4.05 (m)				
9	4.35 (dd, $J = 11.2, 6.6$ )	64.4	4''	3.48 (t, $J = 9.5$ )	73.7
	4.26 (dd, $J = 11.2, 8.2$ )				
1'		129.6	5''	3.59 (m)	70.9
2'/6'	7.59 (d, $J = 8.6$ )	131.0	6''	1.22 (d, $J = 6.1$ )	18.0
3'/5'	7.11 (d, $J = 8.6$ )	117.8			

<sup>†</sup> Entries with the same superscript are interchangeable.

$m/z$  434.2190 [ $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_7$ , 434.2178);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data: see table 2.

**3.3.4 *p*-Coumaric acid 4-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnoside (**4**).** Colourless amorphous solid;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} - 104.6$  (MeOH,  $c$  0.36); UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH, nm, log  $\epsilon$ ): 272 (4.14); IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3424, 1634, 1605, 1509, 1237, 1018, 981; ESI-MS  $m/z$  309 [ $\text{M}-\text{H}$ ]<sup>-</sup>; HRESI-MS  $m/z$  309.0982 [ $\text{M}-\text{H}$ ]<sup>-</sup> (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_7$ , 309.0974);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ): 7.48 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, H-2, H-6), 7.06 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, H-3, H-5), 7.40 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, H-7), 6.39 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, H-8), 5.46 (br. s, H-1'), 4.00 (br. d,  $J = 1.1$  Hz, H-2'), 3.84 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 3.3$  Hz, H-3'), 3.45 (t,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, H-4'), 3.61 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 6.2$  Hz, H-5'), 1.22 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, H-6');  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ): 131.3 (s, C-1), 130.0 (d, C-2, C-6), 117.7 (d, C-3, C-5), 158.7 (s, C-4), 141.2 (d, C-7), 123.9 (d, C-8), 175.4 (s, C-9), 99.8 (d, C-1'), 72.0 (d, C-2'), 72.3 (d, C-3'), 73.9 (d, C-4'), 70.8 (d, C-5'), 18.0 (q, C-6').

### 3.4 Acid hydrolysis of **1**

Compound **1** (40 mg) was dissolved in 25 ml of 6% aq. HCl and hydrolysed under reflux (2 h) at 90°C. Then, the acidic solution was evaporated *in vacuo* to dryness and separated by silica gel CC eluted with  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$  (3:1) to yield 7 mg of D-glucose detected by TLC and optical rotation,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{17} + 40.3$  ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.88).

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