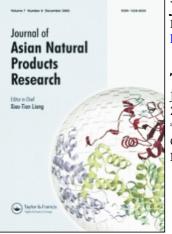
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Three new flavanols from Daphne giraldii

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Three new flavanols, 5-*p*-hydroxybenzoxy-7-hydroxyl-8-ethoxycarbonyl-(-)-afzelechin (1), 5-*p*-hydroxybenzoxy-7-(2, 3, 5-trihydroxybenzoxy)-8-ethoxycarbonyl-(-)-afzelechin (2), and 5-*p*-hydroxybenzoxy-7-(2, 3, 5-trihydroxybenzoxy)-8-methoxycarbonyl-(-)-afzelechin (3), were isolated from *Daphne giraldii* Nitsche and their structures were elucidated by spectroscopic methods, especially by 2D-NMR and MS analyses.

Keywords: Daphne giraldii; Thymelaeaceae; flavanol; afzelechin

1. Introduction

Daphne giraldii Nitsche is mainly distributed in central and western China. The stems and roots of this plant (Chinese name 'Zu Shima') have been used in Chinese folk medicines to treat ache and rheumatism, especially for toothache, waistache, rheumatoid arthritis and quadriplegia.¹ Earlier chemical research on this plant was focused on diterpenoids,^{2,3} coumarins,^{4,5} and biflavonoids.⁶ In our search for natural products with biological activities, three new flavanols were isolated from *D. giraldii*. In the present study, we report the isolation and characterization of three new flavan-3-ols.

2. Results and discussion

Compound 1 was isolated as yellow powder. The HRESIMS indicated its molecular formula $C_{25}H_{22}O_9$ at m/z 489.1159 $[M + Na]^+$. The UV spectrum showed the absorption maxima at 216 and 260 nm. The characteristic carbon resonances at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 80.9, 65.2 and 27.2 together with the corresponding protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.80, 3.99 and 2.47 suggested that compound 1 was a derivative of flavan-3-ol. The ¹H NMR spectrum exhibited an aromatic proton singlet at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.28, together with three aromatic quaternary carbons at δ_C 157.3, 147.7 and 106.8 in ¹³C NMR spectrum, which implied the trisubstituted ring A. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 1, a pair of twoproton doublet signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.21 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-2', 6' and 6.71 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-3', 5' revealed 4'-OH substitution of the ring B. A *p*-hydroxybenzoxy group was assigned by the characteristic signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 163.7 (C-1"), 119.2 (C-2"), 132.0 (C-3", 7"), 115.5 (C-4", 6"), and 162.6 (C-5") in the ¹³C NMR spectrum, as well as their corresponding proton resonances at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.90 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-3'', 7'') and 6.85 (2H, d, J = 9.0 Hz, H-4'', 6'') in ¹H NMR spectrum, and the *p*-hydroxybenzoxy group was attached to C-5 by the HMBC correlations

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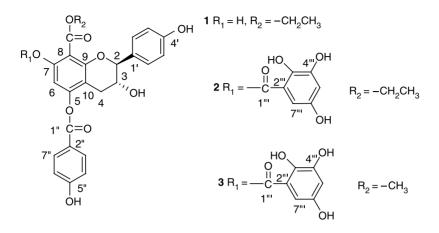


Figure 1. Structures of compounds 1-3.

of H-6 with C-1" and C-10. Also, an ethoxycarbonyl group substituted at C-8 was determined by the carbon signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 164.0 (C=O), 60.2 (OCH₂), and 13.6 (Me) and the corresponding proton signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.94 (2H, m, OCH₂) and 0.90 (3H, t, Me). A hydroxyl was assigned to C-7 by the HMBC correlation of H-6 with C-7. On the basis of the above evidences, compound **1** was determined as 5-*p*-hydroxybenzoxy-7-hydroxyl-8-ethoxycarbonyl-(-)-afzelechin.

Compound 2, a yellow powder, possesses the molecular formula $C_{32}H_{26}O_{13}$ due to its HRESIMS at m/z 641.1269 [M + Na]⁺. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed characteristic resonances for flavanol-3-ol at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.92 (1H, d, J = 6.0 Hz), 4.02 (1H, m) and 2.57 (2H, m), and the 13 C NMR spectrum exhibited the corresponding carbon resonances at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 81.0, 65.1, and 27.2. As deduced in compound 1, a *p*-hydroxybenzoxy and an ethoxycarbonyl were determined by the interpretation of the NMR spectral data of compound 2 and were attached to C-5 and C-8, respectively. Moreover, two aromatic proton resonances at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.14 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz) and 5.71 (1H, d, $J = 2.0 \,\mathrm{Hz}$), as well as seven carbon resonances at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 100.4, 101.7, 102.8, 151.6, 161.6, 161.8, and 162.0 in the ¹³C NMR spectrum, revealed the presence of a 2, 3, 5-trihydroxybenzoxy. The H-6 was observed as an HMBC correlation to C-1''', hinting the linkage of 2, 3, 5-trihydroxybenzoxy at C-7. Therefore, the structure of compound **2** was elucidated as 5-*p*-hydroxybenzoxy-7-(2,3,5-trihydroxybenzoxy)-8-ethoxycarbonyl-(–)-afzelechin.

Compound 3 was isolated as yellow powder. The HRESIMS of compound 3 showed a quasimolecular ion at m/z $627.1114 [M + Na]^+$, resulting in a molecular formula C₃₂H₂₆O₁₃. Its molecular weight was 14, less than that of compound **2**. The 1 H and ${}^{13}C$ NMR spectra of compound 3 were quite similar to those of compound 2 except for one methoxy group in 3 instead of the ethoxy group in **2**. The proton resonance at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.57 (MeO) showed the HMBC correlations with C=O ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 167.69) and C-8, suggesting that methoxycarbonyl being attached to C-8. Thus, compound 3 was determined as 5p-hydroxybenzoxy-7-(2,3,5-trihydroxybenzoxy)-8-methoxycarbonyl-(-)-afzelechin (Figure 1).

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin– Elmer 341 polarimeter; UV spectra were performed on a Shimadzu UV210A, λ_{max} (log ε) in nm; IR spectra were obtained on a Perkin–Elmer 577 spectrometer, in cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR, HSQC, HMBC and NOESY spectra were recorded on a Bruker

Position	1		2		3	
	$\delta_{ m c}$	$\delta_{\rm H}$ (mult., J)	$\delta_{\rm c}$	$\delta_{\rm H}$ (mult., J)	$\delta_{ m c}$	$\delta_{\rm H}$ (multi., J)
2	80.9	4.80 (d, 7.0)	81.0	4.92 (d, 6.0)	80.9	4.91 (d, 7.0)
3	65.2	3.99 (m)	65.1	4.02 (m)	65.0	4.05 (m)
4	27.2	2.47 (m)	27.2	2.57 (m)	27.0	2.57 (m) 2.76 (1H, m)
5	157.3		158.8		158.5	
6	101.5	6.28 (s)	102.2	6.33 (s)	101.9	6.33 (s)
7	147.7		149.5		148.9	
8	106.8		104.5		104.7	
9	153.1		154.9		154.4	
10	106.2		106.5		106.4	
1'	129.2		129.1		129.0	
2'	127.8	7.21 (d, 8.0)	127.7	7.18 (d, 9.0)	127.6	7.19 (d, 9.0)
3′	114.8	6.71 (d, 8.0)	114.8	6.71 (d, 9.0)	114.8	6.71 (d, 9.0)
4′	156.9		156.9		156.8	
5'	114.8	6.71 (d, 8.0)	114.8	6.71 (d, 9.0)	114.8	6.71 (d, 9.0)
6'	127.8	7.21 (d, 8.0)	127.7	7.18 (d, 9.0)	127.6	7.19 (d, 9.0)
1″	163.7		164.1		163.9	
2"	119.2		119.3		119.1	
3″	132.0	7.90 (d, 8.0)	132.2	7.90 (d, 8.0)	132.1	7.91 (d, 9.0)
4″	115.5	6.85 (d, 9.0)	115.5	6.85 (d, 9.0)	115.4	6.86 (d, 9.0)
5″	162.6		162.5		162.5	
6″	115.5	6.85 (d, 9.0)	115.5	6.85 (d, 9.0)	115.4	6.86 (d, 9.0)
7″	132.0	7.90 (d, 8.0)	132.2	7.91 (d, 8.0)	132.1	7.91 (d, 9.0)
1‴			161.6		161.5	
2‴			101.7		101.4	
3‴			161.8		161.9	
4‴			151.6		151.6	
5‴			102.8	5.71 (d, 2.0)	102.7	5.71 (d, 2.0)
6'''			162.0		162.1	
7‴			100.4	6.14 (d, 2.0)	100.4	6.14 (d, 2.0)
C = O	164.0		167.4		167.7	
OCH_2	60.2	3.94 (m)	60.9	4.04 (m)		
CH ₃	13.6	0.90 (t, 7.0)	13.6	1.05 (t, 7.0)		
OCH ₃					51.9	3.57 (s)

Table 1. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectral data for compounds 1-3 in DMSO- d_6 (ppm).

AVANCE^{II} 600 NMR; HRESI-MS were performed on a JMS-HX 110 instrument.

3.2 Plant material

The stem barks of *Daphne giraldii* Nitsche (Thymelaeaceae) were collected in May 2005 from Shanxi Province, China and were authenticated by Professor CeMing Tan. A voucher specimen (No. 2005051509) has been deposited in the School of Pharmacy, Second Military Medical University.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The stem barks of *Daphne giraldii* (11 kg) were extracted three times with 95% EtOH at room temperature. After the removal of EtOH, the water suspension was partitioned with petroleum ether, CHCl₃, EtOAc and *n*-BuOH. The EtOAc extract (200 g) was submitted to column chromatography over silica gel (100–200 mesh) eluting with the gradient CHCl₃–MeOH (15:1 to 5:1) to yield fractions 1–5. The fraction 2 (30 g) was separated by column chromatography over silica gel (100–200 mesh), eluting with the

gradient CHCl₃–MeOH (12:1 to 10:1), and were repeatedly purified through ODS column chromatography, eluting with MeOH– H_2O (5:5 to 6:4), to provide compounds **1** (98 mg), **2** (30 mg), and **3** (46 mg).

3.3.1 Compound 1

Yellow powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 51.4$ (*c* 0.319, MeOH); UV $[\lambda]_{max}^{MeOH}$ nm (log ε): 216 (3.33) and 260 (2.05); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3313, 1724, 1698, 1606, 1519, 1441, 1293, 1172, 1057, 987 and 762; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) and ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) spectral data (see Table 1); HRESIMS: *m/z* 489.1159 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₅H₂₂O₉Na, 489.1162).

3.3.2 Compound 2

Yellow powder; mp 177–178°C; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –93 (c 0.3075, MeOH); UV $[\lambda]_{max}^{MeOH}$ nm (log ε): 214 (0.567) and 260 (0.386); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3365, 1701, 1662, 1517, 1519, 1445, 1288, 1166, 1054, 849, and 762; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) and ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) spectral data (see Table 1); HRESIMS: *m*/*z* 641.1269 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₂H₂₆O₁₃Na, 641.1271).

3.3.3 Compound 3

Yellow powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} - 102$ (*c* 0.1095, MeOH); UV $[\lambda]_{max}^{MeOH}$ nm (log ε): 214 (1.10)

and 260 (0.724); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3420, 1734, 1666, 1517, 1519, 1438, 1262, 1166, 1082, 849, and 763; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) and ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) spectral data (see Table 1); HRESIMS: m/z 627.1114 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₁H₂₄O₁₃Na, 627.1115).

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