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A novel 1,10-seco withanolide from Physalis peruviana

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NOTE

A novel 1,10-seco withanolide from Physalis peruviana

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A novel 1,10-*seco* withanolide, 1,10-*seco* withaperuvin C (1), together with four known withanolides, 4β -hydroxywithanolide E (2), visconolide (3), withanolide F (4), and withaphysanolide (5), was isolated from the aerial parts of *Physalis peruviana*. The structures of compounds 1–5 were determined on the basis of spectroscopic methods including extensive 1D and 2D NMR analysis. In addition, the possible biogenetic relationships among these five withanolides are discussed.

Keywords: Physalis peruviana; 1,10-seco withaperuvin C; withanolide; steroid

1. Introduction

The genus Physalis (Solanaceae) includes about 120 species mainly distributed in South and North America. Five species of this genus are found in China [1]. *Physalis peruviana* is a common plant in China, and its fruit is edible, called 'cape gooseberry'. It is also a medicinal plant widely used in folk medicine for treating diseases such as malaria, asthma, hepatitis, dermatitis, diuretics, and rheumatism [2,3]. In previous studies, a series of withanolides had been isolated from this plant [4-12]. In this paper, we report the isolation and elucidation of a new 1,10-seco withanolide, 1,10-seco withaperuvin C (1), together with four known withanolides: 4β -hydroxywithanolide E (2) [13,14], visconolide (3) [15], withanolide F (4)[16], and withaphysanolide (5) [14] from the aerial parts of *P. peruviana* (Figure 1). Compound 1,10-seco with a peruvin C (1) is the first example of steroids with a unique 1,10-seco withanolide skeleton isolated from the genus Physalis.

2. Results and discussion

Compound 1 was isolated as a white amorphous solid, and showed a quasimolecular ion peak $[M+Na]^+$ at m/z 509 in its positive ESI-MS. Its molecular formula was established as C₂₈H₃₈O₇ by HR-ESI-MS at m/z 509.2520. The IR spectrum showed strong absorptions at 3424 and 1708 cm^{-1} , indicating the presence of hydroxyl and ester groups. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of 1 showed the presence of 28 carbons consisting of two carbonyls, three carbon-carbon double bonds including two four-substituted and one-disubstituted, four quaternary carbons including three oxygen-bearing functional groups, four sp³ methines including two oxygen-bearing functional groups, seven methylenes, and five methyls. Comparison of the NMR spectral data of 1 with those of the known withaperuvin C [17] indicated that compound 1 is also a withanolide derivative, and they have the same substituent patterns and relative configurations in

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Figure 1. Structures of compounds 1-5.

rings C, D and in their respective lactone ring, except for the major differences in the A/B rings. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, the signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.84 (br d, J = 17.3 Hz), 3.18 (dd, J = 17.3, 8.7 Hz), 5.45 (br dd, J = 11.4, 8.7 Hz), and 6.55 (dd, J = 11.4, 3.2 Hz) were assigned to H-2 α , H-2 β , H-3, and H-4, respectively, on the basis of an analysis of the ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum, and the downfield chemical shift at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.79 (3H, s) implied that Me-19 was a vinylic methyl. In addition, a signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.15 (1H, br s, H-6) together with the signal at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 173.0 (C-1) in the ¹³C NMR spectrum indicated that 1 possesses a 1,10-seco withanolide skeleton [19]. This was confirmed by the analysis of the HMBC spectrum, in which long-range correlations were observed between C-1 and H-2 β , H-3 and H-6, between H-4 and C-5, C-6, and C-10, and between C-5 and Me-19, as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, a seven-membered β , γ -unsaturated lactone moiety was considered in ring A.

The β -configuration of the lactone bond at C-6 was established by a ROESY experiment (Figure 2). The ROESY spectrum showed the correlation between H-6 (δ 5.15, br s) and H-2 α , H-7 α and H-7 β , indicating that H-6 has the same configuration as H-2 α . Since a small coupling between H-2 α and H-3 in the



Figure 2. The key HMBC and ROESY correlations of compound 1.

¹H NMR spectrum was observed due to an approximate 90° dihedral angle between them, a β -configuration of the lactone bond at C-6 was inferred, which is in agreement with those of stoloniolide I [18] and 1,10-*seco* withametelin B [19]. Therefore, the structure of **1** was deduced as shown in Figure 1, which was named 1,10-*seco* withaperuvin C.

In addition to the new 1,10-seco withanolide **1**, four known withanolides 2-5 were isolated from the aerial parts of *P. peruviana*. The possible biogenetic relationships among these five compounds are discussed in Scheme 1.

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were determined on a Horiba SEPA-300 spectropolarimeter. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-2401PC spectrophotometer. IR spectra were measured on a Bio-Rad FTS-135 spectrometer. 1D and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 and DRX-500 instruments with TMS as an internal standard. ESI-MS and HR-ESI-MS were measured on VG AutoSpec-3000 and API Qstar-Pulsar LC/TOF mass spectrometers. Column chromatography (CC) was performed over silica gel (200–300 mesh; Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, China). TLC was performed on precoated silica gel G plates (Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc.), and spots were visualized by spraying with 10% H₂SO₄ in EtOH, followed by heating.

3.2 Plant material

The aerial parts of *P. peruviana* were collected from Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, in September 2005, and were identified by Prof. Chengmin Zhang, Kunming Institute of Botany. A voucher



Scheme 1. Possible biogenetic relationships of compounds 1-5.

$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$
	173.0
3.84 (br d, $J = 17.3$) α -H,	35.6
$3.18 (\mathrm{dd}, J = 17.3, 8.7) \beta\text{-H}$	
5.45 (br dd, $J = 11.4, 8.7$)	116.7
6.55 (dd, $J = 11.4, 3.2$)	129.3
	124.1
5.15 (br s)	73.8
2.04 (m), 1.81 (m)	29.5
2.05 (m)	36.9
2.57 (m)	39.5
	143.4
2.00 (m), 1.43 (m)	25.5
2.39 (m), 1.43 (m)	31.1
	55.0
	82.0
1.79 (m), 1.67 (m)	37.1
2.77 (m), 1.50 (m)	37.9
	87.5
1.13 (s)	21.2
1.79 (s)	15.7
	78.9
1.43 (s)	19.6
4.86 (dd, $J = 12.2, 4.0$)	79.7
2.54 (m)	34.3
	151.0
	121.2
	166.1
1.87 (s)	12.3
1.94 (s)	20.6
	$\frac{\delta_{\rm H}}{3.84 \text{ (br d, } J = 17.3) \alpha \text{-H},}$ 3.84 (br d, $J = 17.3, 8.7$) $\beta \text{-H}$ 5.45 (br dd, $J = 11.4, 8.7$) 6.55 (dd, $J = 11.4, 3.2$) 5.15 (br s) 2.04 (m), 1.81 (m) 2.05 (m) 2.57 (m) 2.00 (m), 1.43 (m) 2.39 (m), 1.43 (m) 1.79 (m), 1.67 (m) 2.77 (m), 1.50 (m) 1.13 (s) 1.79 (s) 1.43 (s) 4.86 (dd, $J = 12.2, 4.0$) 2.54 (m) 1.87 (s) 1.94 (s)

Table 1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectral data for compound 1 in CDCl₃ (δ in ppm, *J* in Hz).

specimen (No. 20050911) is deposited in the State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The air-dried aerial parts (6.0 kg) of *P. peruviana* were extracted with MeOH at room temperature (4× 40 liters). The extracts were combined and concentrated, and the residue was suspended in H₂O, and then successively partitioned with petroleum ether, CHCl₃, and *n*-BuOH, respectively. The CHCl₃-soluble extract (33 g) was subjected to CC (silica gel; CHCl₃-MeOH 100:0-80:20) to afford 11

fractions (1-11). Fraction 8 was separated by repeated CC on silica gel, eluting with CHCl₃-MeOH (30:1-15:1) and petroleum ether-Me₂CO (4:1-2:1) to afford **1** (10 mg) and **4** (234 mg). Fraction 6 provided **2** (425 mg) and **5** (34 mg) after being chromatographed over silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether-Me₂CO (3:1-2:1). Fraction 10 was subjected to a silica gel column with gradient elution (petroleum ether-Me₂CO 10:1-1:1), followed by repeated CC to obtain **3** (16 mg).

3.3.1 1,10-seco with a peruvin C(1)

A white amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_D^{22.8} + 76.1$ (c = 0.18, CHCl₃); UV (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) nm: 242 (3.93); IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3424, 2923, 1708, 1388, 1288, 1137, 1088, 995; ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data: see Table 1; ESI-MS: m/z 509 [M+Na]⁺; HR-ESI-MS: m/z 509.2520 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₃₈O₇Na, 509.2515).

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