# JUNCINS A-F, SIX NEW BRIARANE DITERPENOIDS FROM THE GORGONIAN JUNCEELLA JUNCEA 

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#### Abstract

Six new diterpenoids, juncins A-F [2-7], possessing the known briarane skeleton have been isolated from a gorgonian collected from the Red Sea. The structures and relative stereochemistry of the juncins were determined by extensive ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C} 1 \mathrm{D}$ and 2 D nmr spectral analysis.


Briarein A [1] isolated from the gorgonian Briareum asbestinum was the first reported example of these novel bicarbocyclic diterpenes (1-5). Diterpenes with the same skeleton as briarein A have been subsequently reported from octocorals belonging to the order Pennatulacea and also from Gorgonacea. Most recently a novel briarane diterpenoid was also isolated from a Mediterranean nudibranch and from its octocoral prey (6).

Our investigation of the gorgonian Junceella juncea Pallas (Gorgonaceae) has resulted in the isolation and identification of six new briarane diterpenes, 2-7. J. juncea was collected from sites in the entrances to the Gulf of Eilat and Gulf of Suez, Red Sea. The $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$-soluble extract of the freeze-dried horny coral was separated by repeated chromatographies on Si gel and RP-18 columns; a total of six compounds have been isolated and identified. These compounds, designated juncins A [2], B [3], C [4], D [5], $\mathrm{E}[6]$, and $\mathrm{F}[7]$, were isolated in yiclds of $0.001-0.008 \%$ (dry wt). The mass spectra of the juncins, together with their ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ - and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{nmr}$ spectra (Tables 1 and 2 ) suggested the briarane skeleton. Characteristic in the mass spectra of $2-7$ were the pairs of peaks differing by 2 amu with a relative intensity of 1:3, suggesting one chlorine atom in each compound.

Juncin A [2] had the molecular formula $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{33} \mathrm{ClO}_{10}$ (hreims, see Experimental), $m / z 541 / 543$ (3:1, $[\mathrm{MH}]^{+}$, cims), and showed a uv absorption at $\lambda 220 \mathrm{~nm}(\epsilon 9000)$ and ir absorptions at $\nu 3520,1780,1730$, and $1720 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, typical for an alcohol, a $\gamma-$ lactone, and one or more ester functionalities. Comparison of the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{nmr}$ spectrum of 2 with that of 1 (7) (Table 1) and the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$-nmr spectrum with that of ptilosarcone $[8]$ (8) (Table 2) suggested for 2 the same substituted ten-membered ring system as in compounds 1 and 8 and in addition an acetate and an exocyclic epoxide. The positions of the latter two functionalities were unequivocally determined by COSY and difference nOe measurements to be at C-14 and C-11, respectively. The resonance line assignments of both protons and carbons of the molecule was assisted by an HMQC (9) experiment that established all C-H connectivities and, hence, also all pairs of geminal protons.

The COSY experiment established the following correlations: $\mathrm{H}-2$ to $\mathrm{H}-3,-4$, and Me-15; H-3 to H-4; H-4 to H-6, -16a, 16 b ; H-6 to H-7, $-16 \mathrm{a},-16 \mathrm{~b}$; H-7 to 8-OH; H-9 to H-10; H-10 to H-20a and Me-15; H-12eq to H-12ax, $-13 \mathrm{ax},-13 \mathrm{eq},-14$; H12ax to H-13ax, -13eq, -20b; H-13eq to H-13ax, -14; H-13ax to H-14; H-17 to Me18 ; $\mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{a}$ to $\mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{~b}$. These connectivities established the $\mathrm{C}-1$ (including $\mathrm{Me}-15$ ) to C 8, C-9 to $\mathrm{C}-14$, and $\mathrm{C}-17$ to $\mathrm{C}-18$ segments of the molecule, leaving unconnected the $\mathrm{C}-1$ to $\mathrm{C}-14$ and $\mathrm{C}-8$ to $\mathrm{C}-9$ and $\mathrm{C}-17$ bonds and the manner of the closure of the $\gamma$-lactone. The suggested briarane diterpenoid structure was unequivocally established by difference nOe measurements summarized in Figure 1. The latter experiment, together with the measured coupling constants (Table 1), also determined the relative
Table 1. ${ }^{1}$ H-nmr Data of Juncins A [2], B [3], C [4], D [5], E [6], and F[7] and Briarein A [1] in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$. ${ }^{\text {a }}$

| Proton | Compound |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2 | 3 | $4{ }^{\text {b }}$ | 5 | 6 | 7 | $1{ }^{\text {d }}$ |
| H-2 | 6.46 (d,9) | 6.20 ( $\mathrm{d}, 9$ ) | 6.32 (d,9) | 6.37 (d,9.7) | 6.25 (d, 10) | 6.00 (d, 8.3) | 6.12(10) |
| H-3 | 5.66 (dd, 9,11) | 5.62 (dd, 9, 12) | 5.70 (dd, 9, 11) | 5.75 (dd, 9.7,11.3) | 5.75 (dd, 10,12) | $\begin{aligned} & 1.64(\mathrm{~m})^{e, f} \\ & 2.32(\mathrm{~m})^{e, f} \end{aligned}$ | $5.84(12,10)$ |
| H-4 | S.92(d, 11) | 5.96 (d, 12) | 5.92 (d, 11) | 5.92(d, 11.3) | 5.96 (d, 12) | $\begin{gathered} 2.50(\mathrm{~m})^{e, f}, \\ 2.38(\mathrm{~m})^{e, f} \end{gathered}$ | 6.00(12) |
| H-6 | 5.11 (d,3.2) | 5.18(d,2.9) | 5.12 (dd, 3, 1) | 5.12 (dd, 3.1,1.2) | $5.10(\mathrm{~d}, 3.1)$ | 4.63 (d, 3.2) | 5.12 (3.7.1.1) |
| H-7 | 4.78 (d,3.2) | 4.97 (d, 2.9) | 4.78 (d, 3) | 4.75 (d, 3.1) | 4.75 (d,3.1) | 4.45 (brs) | 4.87 (3.7) |
| H-9 | 4.82 (d,4) | 5.31 (d, 5.3) | $4.92\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta \mathrm{~W}_{1 / 2}=8\right)^{\text {c }}$ | $4.98\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta W_{1 / 2}=7\right)$ | 4.93(d, 1.8) | $5.75\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta \mathrm{~W}_{1 / 2}=3\right)$ | 5.58(s) |
| H-10 | 3.22 (d,4) | $3.50\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta \mathrm{~W}_{1 / 2}=13\right)$ | $3.92\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta \mathrm{~W}_{1 / 2}=9\right)$ | $3.92\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta \mathrm{~W}_{1 / 2}=9\right)$ | $3.95\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta \mathrm{~W}_{1 / 2}=4\right)$ | $3.70\left(\mathrm{~m}, \Delta \mathrm{~W}_{1 / 2}=3\right)$ | 3.10 (s) |
| H-12eq | 1.15 (m) ${ }^{\text {e }}$ | 2.30 (m) ${ }^{\text {e }}$ | 4.62(t,3.5) | 4.56 ( $t, 3.3$ ) | 4.87 (d,3.3) | 4.35 (t, 3.2) | 4.87 (3,2.5) |
| H-12ax | 2.22 (m) ${ }^{\text {e }}$ | 2.23 (m) ${ }^{\text {e }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| H-13eq. | 1.77 (m) ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 1.82 (m) ${ }^{\text {e.f }}$ | 2.15 (m) ${ }^{\text {c.g }}$ | 2.10 (m) ${ }^{\text {c.f }}$ f | $5.20(t, 3.3)$ | 2.02 (m) ${ }^{\text {c, }}$ f | 1.99(17,3.4,3) |
| H-13ax | 1.92 (m) ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 1.92 (m) ${ }^{\text {e.f }}$ | 2.15 (m) ${ }^{\text {c.g }}$ | 2.25 (m) ${ }^{\text {c.f }}$ f |  | $2.28(\mathrm{~m})^{\text {c. }}$, ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 2.35(17,2.8,2.5) |
| H-14 | 4.88 (brs) | $4.79(t, 1)$ | $4.96(t, 3.8)$ | 4.92 (t,3.4) | 5.25 (d, 3.3) | 4.85 (t, 2.8) | 5.71 (3.4,2.8) |
| Me-15 | 1.05 (s) | 1.10 (s) | 1.20(s) | 1.19 (s) | 1.30 (s) | 1.16 (s) | 1.40 (s) |
| H-16a | 6.04 (s) | 5.90 (brs) ${ }^{\text {k }}$ | 5.77 (s) | 5.76 (s) ${ }^{\text {h }}$ | 5.76 (brs) ${ }^{8}$ | $5.82(\mathrm{~s})^{\mathrm{h}}$ | 5.48(1,1) |
| H-16b | 5.95 (s) | 5.88 (brs) ${ }^{\text {h }}$ | 5.72 (s) | 5.70 (s) ${ }^{\text {h }}$ | 5.76 (brs) ${ }^{88}$ | $5.51(\mathrm{~s})^{\text {h }}$ | $5.60(1,1)$ |
| H-17 | 2.53 (q,7) | 2.56 (q, 7.3) | 2.71 (q,7.5) | 2.88 (q,7) | 2.86 (q, 7 ) | 2.96 (q,7) | 3.14(7,7,7) |
| Me-18 | 1.21 (d,7) | 1.20(d,7.3) | 1.22 (d, 7.5) | 1.22 (d,7) | 1.25 (d,7) | 1.25 (d,7) | 1.34 (7) |
| H-20a | 2.64 (d, 2.6) | 4.84 (brs) | 2.85 (brs) ${ }^{\text {s }}$ | 2.85 (d, 2.8) | 2.92 (d, 3) | 2.82 (d, 3.6) | 1.54 (s) |
| H-20b | 3.12 (t,2.6) | 4.94 (brs) | 2.85 (brs) ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | 2.72 (brs, $\left.\Delta \mathrm{W}_{1 / 2}=10\right)$ | 2.73 (d,3) | 2.36 (d, 3.6) |  |
| 8 -OH | 3.19 (s) | 2.95 (s) | 3.12(s) | 3.10 (s) | 3.06 (s) | 3.42 (s) |  |
| OAc's | 2.02 (s) | 1.98 (s) | 2.04 (s) | 2.00(s) | 1.96(s) | 1.97 (s) |  |
|  | 2.09 (s) | 2.02 (s) | 2.10(s) | 2.03 (s) | 1.99 (s) | 2.00 (s) |  |
|  | 2.22 (s) | 2.17 (s) | 2.17 (s) | 2.07 (s) | 2.07 (s) | 2.22 (s) |  |
|  |  |  |  | 2.17 (s) | $\begin{aligned} & 2.12(\mathrm{~s}) \\ & 2.18(\mathrm{~s}) \end{aligned}$ |  |  |

[^0]Table 2. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ nmr of Juncins $\mathrm{A}[2], \mathrm{C}[4], \mathrm{D}[5]$, and $\mathrm{E}[6]$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}{ }^{\mathbf{2}}{ }^{2}$

| Carbon | Compound |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2 | $4^{\text {b }}$ | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| C-1 | 47.8 s | 47.6 s | 47.7 s | 47.1 s | 44.72 s |
| C-2 | 71.6 d | 70.7 d | 70.6 d | $70.8 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {d }}$ | 76.01 d |
| C-3 | 130.5 d | 130.4d | 130.5 d | 130.0 d | 131.06 d |
| C-4 | 128.2 d | 128.2 d | 128.3 d | 128.5 d | 128.02 d |
| C-5 | 137.0 s | 137.3 s | 137.2 s | 137.2 s | 136.56 s |
| C-6 | 62.2 d | 63.8 d | 62.2 d | 64.0 d | 62.91 d |
| C-7 | 78.6 d | 78.7 d | 78.7 d | 78.7 d | 72.16 d |
| C-8 | 81.3 s | 80.0 s | 80.0 s | 80.4 s | 82.85 s |
| C-9 | 70.4 d | $72.6 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {e }}$ | $73.0 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {e }}$ | $73.1 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {d }}$ | 77.92 d |
| C-10 | 38.3 d | 33.4 d | 33.3 d | 32.8 d | 38.86 d |
| C-11 | 59.3 s | 57.9 s | 57.8 s | 57.1 s |  |
| C-12 | $25.0 \mathrm{t}^{\text {d }}$ | 72.4 d | 72.9 d | $73.5 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {d }}$ |  |
| C-13 | $29.6 \mathrm{t}^{\text {d }}$ | 29.8 t | 29.6 t | $66.8 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {d }}$ |  |
| C-14 | 74.18 | $72.6 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {e }}$ | $73.0 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {e }}$ | $74.7 \mathrm{~d}^{\text {d }}$ |  |
| C-15 | 14.4 q | 14.3 q | 14.3 q | 14.4 q | 13.64 q |
| C-16 | 116.9 t | 116.8 t | 117.0 t | 117.1 t | 117.79 t |
| C-17 | 47.8 d | 48.4 d | 48.0 d | 48.4 d | 46.28 d |
| C-18 | 7.4 q | 8.3 q | 8.4 q | 8.4 q | 7.07 q |
| C-19 | 174.9 s | 175.6 s | 175.6 s | 173.1 s | 174.50 s |
| C-20 | 50.5 t | 49.7 t | 49.5 t | 49.5 t |  |
| OAc's | 21.1 q | 21.1 q | $21.0 \mathrm{q}^{\text {e }}$ | 20.5 q |  |
|  | 21.2 q | 21.3 q | $21.0 \mathrm{q}^{\text {e }}$ | 20.7 q |  |
|  | 21.4 q | 22.8 q | $21.2 \mathrm{q}^{\text {e }}$ | 20.9 q |  |
|  |  |  | $21.2 \mathrm{q}^{\text {e }}$ | 21.1 q |  |
|  |  |  |  | 21.4 q |  |
|  | 169.6 s | 169.0 s | 169.0 s | 164.3 s |  |
|  | $170.2 \mathrm{~s}^{\text {e }}$ | 169.9 s | $169.7 \mathrm{~s}^{\mathrm{e}}$ | 164.4 s |  |
|  | $170.2 \mathrm{~s}^{\text {e }}$ | 170.1 s | $169.7 \mathrm{~s}^{\text {e }}$ | 169.5 s |  |
|  |  |  | 170.3 s | 169.7 s |  |
|  |  |  |  | 170.3 s |  |

${ }^{2}$ Reported as chemical shift, multiplicity.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}} \mathrm{\delta}^{13} \mathrm{C}$ values of the isovalerate: $172.3 \mathrm{~s}, 43.3 \mathrm{t}, 33.4 \mathrm{~d}, 24.9 \mathrm{q}$ (2C).
${ }^{c}$ Data from Hendrickson and Cardellina (8).
${ }^{\mathrm{d}}$ Assignments are interchangeable.
${ }^{e}$ Overlapping signals.
stereochemistry of the various chiral centers, namely, the same $1 R^{*}, 2 S^{*}, 6 S^{*}, 7 R^{*}$, $8 R^{*}, 9 S^{*}, 10 S^{*}, 11 S^{*}, 12 R^{*}, 14 S^{*}, 17 R^{*}$ configurations as in compounds $\mathbf{1}(1-5)$ and $\mathbf{8}$ (8).

The structure for $3, \mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{33} \mathrm{ClO}_{9}$, obtained in minute amounts only, followed directly from the identification of 2 . Comparison of the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{nmr}$ spectra (Table 1) determined the 11,20-deoxyjuncin A structure for 3. Juncin B is, most likely, the biogenetic precursor of $\mathbf{2}$. The structure of $\mathbf{3}$ was confirmed by a COSY experiment which established the following correlations: $\mathrm{H}-2$ to $\mathrm{H}-3,-4$; H-3 to H-4; H-4 to H-6, -16a, -16b; H-6 to H-7, -16a; H-9 to H-10; H-12ax to H-12eq, -13ax, -13eq, -20b; H-12eq to H-14; H-13ax to H-13eq, -14; H-16a to H-16b; H-17 to Me-18; H-20a to H-20b.

Juncins C [4], D [5], and E [6] all possess the same ten-membered ring as juncins A [2] and B [3] but differ in the cyclohexane unit and in case of $\mathbf{4}$ also in one of the four ester groups.

Juncin C [4], $\mathrm{C}_{31} \mathrm{H}_{41} \mathrm{ClO}_{12}$ (hreims), possesses in addition to three acetates an isovalerate ester, as suggested by the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \mathrm{nmr}[\delta 0.99(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.2, \mathrm{Me}-25), 0.95$ (d,


$1 \mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{Ac}, \mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{R}_{3}=\mathrm{OAc}, \mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{H}$
$8 \mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{7} \mathrm{CO}, \mathrm{R}_{3}, \mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{O}, \mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{H}$
$2 \mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{R}_{3}=\mathrm{Ac}, \mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{R}_{5}=\mathrm{H}$
$3 \mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{R}_{3}=\mathrm{Ac}, \mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{R}_{5}=\mathrm{H}, 11,20$-deoxy
$4 \mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{Ac}, \mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{3}, \mathrm{OR}_{4}=2$ Ac+ isovalerate, $\mathrm{R}_{5}=\mathrm{H}$
$5 \mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{R}_{3}=\mathrm{Ac}, \mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{OAc}, \mathrm{R}_{6}=\mathrm{H}$
$6 \mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{R}_{3}=\mathrm{Ac}, \mathrm{R}_{4}=\mathrm{R}_{5}=\mathrm{OAC}$
7 3,4 dihydro, $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{OR}_{4}=3$ Ac+ isobutyrate,
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{s}}=\mathrm{H}$
$9 \mathrm{R}_{2}=\mathrm{R}_{5}=\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{3}, \mathrm{OR}_{4}=2 \mathrm{Ac}+$ isovalerate


Figure 1. Difference nOe measurements of juncin D [5].
$J=6.2, \mathrm{Me}-24), 2.10(\mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{H}-23), 2.06$ ( $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{H}-22^{\prime}$ ), 2.25 ( $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{H}-22$ )], which was assigned by a COSY experiment ( $\mathrm{H}-22$ correlates to $\mathrm{H}-22^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{H}-23$ and $\mathrm{H}-23$ to $\mathrm{Me}-24$ and $\mathrm{Me}-25$ ). The isovalerate was also in full agreement with the $\left[\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]^{+}$ ( $\mathrm{M}-102 \mathrm{amu}$ ) fragment observed in the mass spectrum. The location of the fourth ester, at C-12, was determined by the COSY experiment. Furthermore, a coupling of less than 1 Hz between $\mathrm{H}-12$ and $\mathrm{H}-14$ due to a W -arrangement determined the 1,3diequatorial configuration for the latter two protons.

The latter stereochemistry was confirmed by nOe's measured between $\mathrm{H}-14$ and $\mathrm{Me}-15$ and between $\mathrm{H}-12$ and $\mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{a}$. The position of the isovalerate, however, could not be determined. It has already been shown for the briaran diterpenoids that no nmr differences exist between methines carrying acetate or other esters (10), thus excluding nmr measurements for the determination of the location of the isovalerate.

Mild basic hydrolysis of $\mathbf{4}$ afforded the 8,9-dihydroxy compound 9 . The $\mathrm{C}-9$ position of the newly formed alcohol was established by double irradiations (see Experimental). Under stronger basic conditions or by treatment of 4 with the $\mathrm{Zn} / \mathrm{Cu}$ couple (11) no selectivity in the hydrolysis of the esters could be observed. The small available amount of juncin C excluded other possible series of reactions.

Juncin D [5], $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{35} \mathrm{ClO}_{12}$, a tetraacetate, possesses almost the same nmr spectrum, apart from the isovalerate, as that of $\mathbf{4}$ (Tables 1 and 2 ). A COSY experiment (see Experimental) confirmed the 2,9,12,14-tetraacetate structure for 5.

Juncin $\mathrm{E}[6], \mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{37} \mathrm{ClO}_{14}, \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{z} 657 / 659(3: 1)[\mathrm{MH}]^{+}$, is a pentaacetate (Tables 1
and 2). Four of the acetates are the same as in juncin $D$, and the fifth was determined to be on C-13. The equatorial configuration of the latter acetate ( $J_{13 \mathrm{ax}, 14 \mathrm{eq}}=J_{12 \mathrm{eq}, 13 \mathrm{ax}}=$ 3.3 Hz ) was established by nOe enhancements observed on $\mathrm{H}-3, \mathrm{H}-13$, and $\mathrm{H}-14$ while irradiating the $\mathrm{Me}-15$ group.

The last compound, juncin F [7], $\mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{41} \mathrm{ClO}_{12}, m / z 629 / 631$ (3:1), $[\mathrm{MH}]^{+}$, was also isolated in a small amount only. From the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{nmr}$ spectrum (Table 1) it was found that the diene present in compounds 1-6 was replaced in 7 by an exocyclic methylene ( $\mathrm{C}-5=\mathrm{C}-16$ ). Furthermore 7 carries three acetates and one isobutyrate $\left[\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 1.16(\mathrm{~d}\right.$, $J=7, \mathrm{Me}-24$ ), 1.19 (d, $J=7, \mathrm{Me}-23$ ), 2.50 (septet, $J=7, \mathrm{H}-22$ ); $\left[\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]^{+}$ $\left.\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-88 \mathrm{mu}\right)\right]$. All four esters were determined to be on the same carbon atoms as in juncins C and D. However, for the same reasons discussed in the case of juncin C, we could not determine the location of the isobutyrate ester. The structure of 7 was confirmed by a COSY experiment showing the following correlations (the numbers with primes point to one out of a pair of methylene protons-the one resonating at higher field): $\mathrm{H}-2$ to $\mathrm{H}-3^{\prime}$, Me-15; H-3 to $\mathrm{H}-3^{\prime},-4,-4^{\prime} ; \mathrm{H}-3^{\prime}$ to $\mathrm{H}-4,-4^{\prime}$; $\mathrm{H}-4$ to $\mathrm{H}-4^{\prime}$, $-16 \mathrm{a},-16 \mathrm{~b}$; H-4' to $\mathrm{H}-16 \mathrm{~b}$; H-6 to H-7, -16 b ; 8-OH to H-9; H-9 to $\mathrm{H}-10$; $\mathrm{H}-10$ to $\mathrm{H}-$ 20a, Me-15; H-12 to H-13ax, -13eq, -14; H-13ax to H-13eq, -14; H-14 to Me-15; H16 a to $\mathrm{H}-16 \mathrm{~b} ; \mathrm{H}-17$ to $\mathrm{Me}-18 ; \mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{a}$ to $\mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{~b}$. The suggested stereochemistry of the acetate at $\mathrm{C}-2$ of 7 was based on the vicinal coupling constants ( $J_{2,3^{\prime}}=8.3, J_{2,3}=0$ ), which are similar to the ones measured for minabein $3(J=7,2)$ isolated by Ksebati and Schmitz from a Minabae sp. (12).

A literature search for similar 11,20-functionalized compounds disclosed junceellin (13) and junceellin B (14) isolated from the Chinese gorgonian Junceella squamata and praelolide isolated from the Chinese gorgonian Pleraureides praelonga (15).

The juncins are closely related to the most recently reported junceelloides, isolated from Junceella fragilis (16).

Worth mentioning are the $\mathrm{H}-9$ to $\mathrm{H}-10$ coupling constants (Table 1). Cardellina and coworkers $(8,10)$ already have pointed out the changes of this $J$ value with the substituent at $\mathrm{C}-11$. Our findings show that other changes in substitutions of the cyclohexane unit, even if $\mathrm{C}-11$ remains unchanged, change significantly the $J_{9,10}$ coupling constant, most likely because of changes in the conformation of the ten-membered ring.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Ir spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Model 177 spectrophotometer. Uv spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Model 257 spectrophotometer. Low-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Finni-gan- 4021 mass spectrometer, source temperature $220-230^{\circ}$, pressure of reagent gases for ci spectra: $\mathrm{CH}_{4}$, 0.28 Torr and $\mathrm{NH}_{3}, 0.15-0.20$ Torr; the electron energies in ei mode were $25-35 \mathrm{eV} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ - and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{nmr}$ spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM- 360 spectrometer equipped with an Aspect 3000 computer and operating at 360.1 and 90.5 MHz for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$, respectively. All chemical shifts are reported with respect to TMS $(\delta=0)$. Hrms were taken on a VG 70 VSEQ instrument.

The 2D-nmr experiments were measured on samples in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at $298^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ shift correlation experiments were performed with a COSY 45 sequence. The two-dimensional maps were composed of $512 \times 2 \mathrm{~K}$ data point spectra. A $1-\mathrm{sec}$ recycle delay was allowed between each pulse sequence. Quadrature detection was applied in both dimensions by using the 16 -step phase cycling for N -type peak selection. Data were multiplied with sine bell shaping function, zero-filled to $1 \mathrm{~K} \times 2 \mathrm{~K}$ and then Fourier transformed and symmetrized. For ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ nmr of the various compounds see Tables 1 and 2.

[^1]EtOAc (8:2 to 3:2) by applying a vacuum to the receiving flask. The material was divided into three fractions. Chromatography of the second fraction ( 100 mg ) on an RP-18 column eluted with $\mathrm{MeOH}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $1: 1$ ) gave juncin A ( $20 \mathrm{mg}, 0.008 \%$ dry wt) and juncin $F(3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.001 \%$ ). The second fraction ( 210 mg ) was first chromatographed again on a Kieselgel H column eluted with petroleum ether/EtOAc, and various combined fractions were separately applied to a RP-18 column. Elution of the latter column with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ with increasing percentages of MeOH gave juncin $\mathrm{C}\{4]$ ( $40 \mathrm{mg}, 0.016 \%$ ), juncin D [5] ( 15 mg , $0.006 \%$ ), juncin $B[3](3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.001 \%)$, and juncin $\mathrm{E}[6]$ ( $15 \mathrm{mg}, 0.005 \%$ ). All six compounds were obtained as amorphous powders which could not be crystallized.

Tlc of the new compounds [Si gel eluted with petroleum ether-EtOAc (1:1)] showed for compounds $6,5,4,2,7$, and $3 R_{f}$ values of $0.20,0.26,0.36,0.37,0.43$ and 0.57 , respectively.

Juncin $A[\mathbf{2}]-[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}-79^{\circ}\left(c=0.02, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right)$; hreims $m / z 540.1752$ for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{33} \mathrm{ClO}_{10}$ (required 540.1762); ir $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 3520,1780,1730,1720 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ; \operatorname{cims}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{4}\right) \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ (rel. int.) $[\mathrm{MH}]^{+} 541 / 543(22,9)$, $481 / 483(17,4), 421 / 423$ (49,19), 361/363 (54,21), 325 (64), 307 (49), 279 (34), 261 (21), 251 (35), 243 (100), 225 (27).

Juncin $B[3]-[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}-55^{\circ}\left(c=0.003, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right)$; ir $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 3540,1780,1750,1730,1720 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; cims $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{4}\right) \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ (rel. int.) $[\mathrm{MH}]^{+} 525 / 527(4,1), 491(18), 465 / 467(21,9), 405 / 407(100,32), 345 / 347$ (40, 14), 329 (26), 309 (33), 281 (19), 205 (16).

Juncin $\mathrm{C}[4]$. $-[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}-79^{\circ}\left(c=0.02, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right)$; hreims $m / e 640.2304$ for $\mathrm{C}_{31} \mathrm{H}_{41} \mathrm{ClO}_{12}$ (required 640.2287); ir $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 3520,1760,1740, \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; cims $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{4}\right) \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ (rel. int.) $[\mathrm{MH}]^{+} 641 / 643(11,5), 581 /$ $583(13,8), 521 / 523(19,7), 461 / 463(18,6), 443(16), 419(41), 401(31), 383(43), 358(79), 341(100)$, 323 (74), 305 (40), 217 (31), 205 (12), 103 (37).

Juncin $\mathrm{D}[5] .[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}-68^{\circ}\left(c=0.007, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right)$; ir $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 3540,1770,1710 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; cims $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{4}\right)$ $m / z$ (rel. int.) $[\mathrm{MH}]^{+}$S99/601 (4, 1), 539/541 (3,1), $479 / 481(5,2), 419 / 421(14,4), 401$ (7), 359/361 (23,9), 341 (25), 323 (22), 279 (37), 205 (70), 149 (100), 99 (22).

Juncin $E[6] .-[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}-66^{\circ}\left(c=0.02, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right)$; ir $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 3540,1780,1750,1740,1720 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; cims $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{4}\right) \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ (rel. int.) $[\mathrm{MH}\}^{+} 657 / 659(45,16), 597 / 599(77,29), 537(20), 477(16), 417(20), 357$ (30), 339 (37), 281 (57), 279 (100), 205 (77), 149 (59).

Juncin $F[7]$. $[\alpha]^{25} \mathrm{D}-7^{\circ}\left(c=0.004, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right)$; ir $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 3490,1790,1740,1730 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; cims $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{4}\right) \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ (rel. int.) $[\mathrm{MH}]^{+} 629 / 631(21,7), 569 / 571(9,2), 541 / 543(60,20), 481(27), 421 / 423$ $(60,21), 361 / 363(100,41), 343(43), 325(43), 307(21), 279(26), 205(34), 149(50)$.

9-Deacetyl juncin C [8].-Juncin C ( 2 mg ) dissolved in a solution of $0.1 \% \mathrm{~K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ in $\mathrm{MeOH}(1 \mathrm{ml})$ was stirred at room temperature for 20 h . The reaction mixture was neutralized with $\mathrm{HOAc}-\mathrm{MeOH}(1: 10)$. $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(5 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(5 \mathrm{ml})$ were added, the two phases were separated, and the organic layer was dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$. The residue after evaporation of the solvents afforded 9-deacetyl juncin $\mathrm{C}: \mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{39} \mathrm{ClO}_{11}$; $m / z[\mathrm{MH}]^{+} 599 / 601(22,7) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \mathrm{nmr}(360) \mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 6.26(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=10.3, \mathrm{H}-2), 5.98(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}$, $J=11.9, \mathrm{H}-4), 5.76(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J=10.3,11.9, \mathrm{H}-3), 5.62(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{H}-16), 5.51\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{H}-16^{\prime}\right), 5.45$ $(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{H}-14), 5.10(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=1.7, \mathrm{H}-6), 5.07(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=3, \mathrm{H}-12), 4.84(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=1.7, \mathrm{H}-7), 4.00$ $(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, 9-\mathrm{OH}), 3.64(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{H}-10), 3.40(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{H}-9), 2.90(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{q}, J=7, \mathrm{H}-17), 2.79(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}$, $J=3.5, \mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{a}), 2.70(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, 8-\mathrm{OH}), 2.41(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=3.5, \mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{~b}), 2.16(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{OAc}), 2.00(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, OAc), $1.42(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=7, \mathrm{Me}-18), 1.09(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=6.4, \mathrm{Me}-24), 1.01(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=6.4, \mathrm{Me}-25)$.

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[^0]:    *Reported as chemical shift (multiplicity, coupling constant).
    2.06 (m), $2.25(\mathrm{~m}), 2.10(\mathrm{~m}), 0.95(\mathrm{~d}, 6.2), 0.99(\mathrm{~d}, 6.2)$-the isovalerate signals.
    ' 2.5 (sep, 7 ), 1.16 ( $\mathrm{d}, 7$ ), 1.19 (d,7)-the isobutyrate signals.
    dData are from W ratten et al. (7).
    "Assignments obtained from the 2D-COSY experiments.
    ${ }^{\prime}$ Assignments are interchangeable.
    ${ }^{8}$ Overlapping signals.
    ${ }^{\mathrm{h}}$ Assignments based on comparison to the orher juncin compounds.

[^1]:    COLIECTION AND EXTRACTION.- J. juncea was collected at depths of $15-25 \mathrm{~m}$ in the entrances to the Gulf of Eilat and the Gulf of Suez, Red Sea. The specimens were frozen immediately after collection. The freeze-dried organism ( 250 g ) was then extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to give after evaporation a gum ( 1.1 g ). A voucher specimen was kept in our collection in TA-YK 1690.

    ISOLATION OF THE BRIARANE DITERPENOIDS 2-7.-The crude material was chromatographed on a dry-packed column of Merck Kieselgel H. The column was eluted successively with petroleum ether-

