

POLYCERASOIDIN AND POLYCERASOIDOL, TWO NEW
PRENYLATED BENZOPYRAN DERIVATIVES
FROM *POLYALTHIA CERASOIDES*

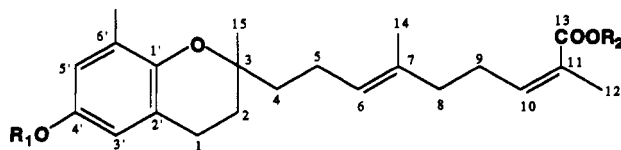
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ABSTRACT.—Two novel metabolites of mixed biogenesis, polycerasoidin [**1**] and polycerasoidol [**2**], have been isolated from the stem bark of *Polyalthia cerasoides*. Their structures were established on the basis of nmr spectroscopic techniques, including 2D correlated nmr spectroscopy (COSY 45, HMQC, and HMBC).

The genus *Polyalthia* includes more than 150 species of trees belonging to the family Annonaceae. It is considered one of the most unusual genera of this family and occurs in the tropical zones of Africa, Asia, and Oceania (1,2). Previous phytochemical studies on *Polyalthia* species have led to the isolation of different types of metabolites, namely, alkaloids (3–6), triterpenes (7), flavonoids (8), and diterpenes with a clerodane skeleton, some of which exhibit cytotoxic properties (9–11). *Polyalthia cerasoides* (Roxb.) Bedd., the subject of the present investigation, is a medium-sized tree occurring mainly in the deciduous forests of India and other Asiatic (12) and Oceanic areas. Only α -spinasterol and β -sitosterol have been reported previously from the leaves and stems of this plant (12). We describe

herein the isolation and structure elucidation of two novel sesquiterpene benzopyran metabolites, polycerasoidin [**1**] and polycerasoidol [**2**], in which the first isoprene unit is arranged in a chromane nucleus. This type of metabolite, which must be considered a prenylated hydroquinone derivative, has been isolated from a broad range of phyla of marine organisms including brown algae (13–16), tunicates (17–19), octocorals (20,21), sponges (22–24), and mollusks (25), where the side-chain is a monoterpene, a drimane sesquiterpene, a linear diterpene, or more frequently a cyclic diterpene. Nevertheless, they are very rare in higher plants (26,27). The cytotoxicity against different tumor cell lines exhibited by some metabolites of this group (17,18,23,24) has raised inter-



- 1 $R_1 = \text{CH}_3$; $R_2 = \text{H}$
- 2 $R_1 = R_2 = \text{H}$
- 3 $R_1 = R_2 = \text{CH}_3$
- 4 $R_1 = \text{COCH}_3$; $R_2 = \text{H}$

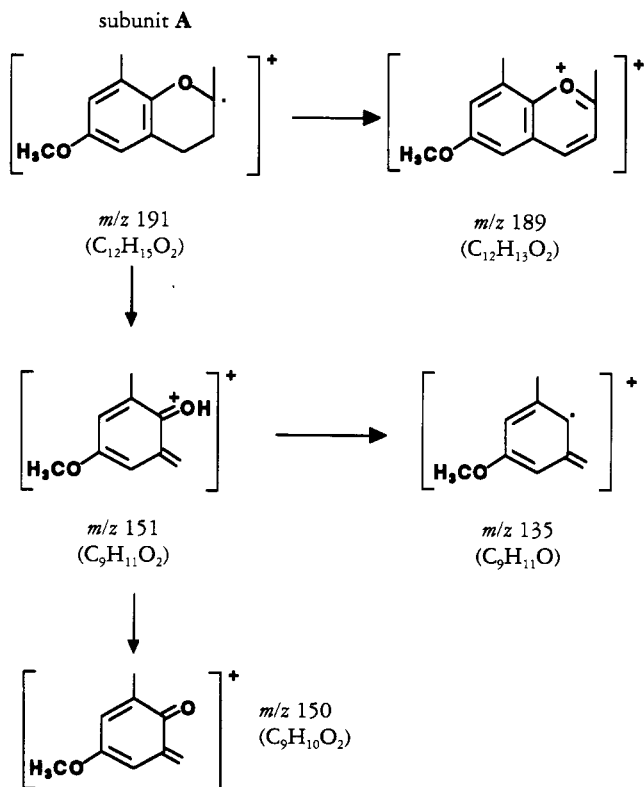
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est in these compounds. Also, their structural similarity with tocopherols has led several authors to assay these compounds as antioxidant and hypocholesterolemic agents, and such activity has been found for some of them (19,28,29).

Policerasoidin [**1**], the most abundant component of a CH_2Cl_2 extract of *P. cerasoides*, was obtained as an optically active yellowish oil, with $[\alpha]_D -16.2^\circ$ ($c=0.8$, MeOH). Its hreims indicated a molecular ion at m/z 372.23000 [M^+], providing the formula $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_4$, requiring eight degrees of unsaturation. The ir spectrum revealed the presence of double bonds (1636 cm^{-1}), an α,β -conjugated carbonyl group (1686 cm^{-1}), and an aromatic ring (2926 and 1604 cm^{-1}); while uv absorptions at 294 nm and 236 nm were consistent with a chromane chromophore and a conjugated carbonyl group, respectively (14,15). The mass spectrum of **1** displayed diagnostically

important fragment peaks at m/z 191 (62%), 189 (36%), 151 (base peak), and 135 (8%), strongly indicative of a partial benzopyran structure (subunit **A**) from which these peaks can originate according to Scheme 1.

Our structural hypothesis for **1** was supported by the 300 MHz ^1H -nmr spectrum (Table 1), which contained two singlets at δ 2.15 (3H) and δ 3.72 (3H) attributed to methyl and methoxy groups, respectively, linked to an aromatic nucleus. An AB system (δ 6.44 and δ 6.56, $J=2.9$ Hz) assignable to two meta-coupled protons; a methyl singlet at δ 1.26 attached to a carbon-bearing oxygen, and resonances at δ 2.73 (2H, t, $J=7.5$ Hz) and δ 1.60–1.70 (2H, m), including an ABX_2 system, completed the chromane moiety. This structure was also confirmed by the following features: (a) selective irradiation at δ 2.73 replaced the ABX_2 system with an AB system



SCHEME 1. Eims fragment ions of subunit **A** of **1**.

TABLE 1. ^1H - and COSY 45 Nmr Data of **1** (300 MHz, CDCl_3).

Proton	δ (J Hz)	Coupling in COSY 45 spectrum
1	2.73 t (7.5)	CH_2 -2 (1.60–1.70)
2	1.60–1.70 m ^a	CH_2 -1 (2.73)
4	1.60–1.80 m ^a	CH_2 -5 (2.04–2.13)
5	2.04–2.13 m ^a	CH_2 -4 (1.60–1.80)
6	5.16 dt (7.5, 1.2)	Me-14 (1.59)
8a	2.04 m ^a	CH-8b (2.13), CH_2 -9 (2.61)
8b	2.13 m ^a	CH-8a (2.04), CH_2 -9 (2.61)
9	2.61 ddd (15, 7.5, <1)	CH-8a (2.04), CH-8b (2.13)
10	6.07 dt (7.5, 1.2)	Me-12 (1.89)
12	1.89 d (1.2)	CH-10 (6.07)
13	10.31 s	—
14	1.59 br s	CH-6 (5.16)
15	1.26 s	—
3'	6.44 d (2.9)	CH-5' (6.56)
5'	6.56 d (2.9)	CH-3' (6.44), Me-6' (2.15)
Me-6'	2.15 s	CH-5' (6.56)
OMe-4'	3.72 s	—

^aOverlapped with other signals.

($J_{AB} = 13.2$ Hz); (b) irradiation at δ 2.73 (CH_2 -1) and δ 2.15 (Me-6') produced an enhancement (nOe) of the doublets at δ 6.44 and δ 6.56, respectively, indicating that these protons are located at C-3' and C-5'; and (c) a three-bond connectivity (HMBC) of the quaternary C-1' (δ 146.25, in the ^{13}C -nmr spectrum) with the ^1H -nmr signals at δ 2.15, δ 2.73, δ 6.44, and δ 6.56, fixed the assignment of the methyl group at position 6' (δ 16.24) and the position of the pyran nucleus. The carbon resonance at 152.14 ppm which correlated with H-3' (δ 6.44) and a three-proton methoxy singlet (δ 3.72) could be ascribed to C-4'. Thus, subunit **A** was defined unambiguously (Figure 1 and Table 2).

The remaining portion of the structure ($\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$) of **1** was elucidated using 1D and 2D nmr spectroscopic techniques. Both the ^1H - and ^{13}C -nmr spectra of **1** (Tables 1 and 2) supported the additional presence of a downfield singlet in the ^1H -nmr spectrum at δ 10.31 and the corresponding carbonyl resonance in the ^{13}C -nmr spectrum (δ 173.63), suggesting an α,β -conjugated carboxylic group (26), which was esterified (MeOH and H_2SO_4) to afford the methyl ester **3**. In addition, two olefinic protons at δ 5.16 and δ 6.07, allylically coupled with two vinyl methyls at δ 1.59 and δ 1.89, a signal at δ 2.61 (2H, ddd) and complex signals of three other methylene groups, were also observed (Table 1). These data are in agree-

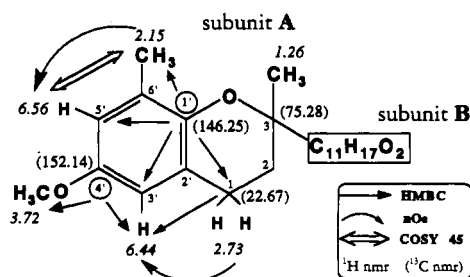


FIGURE 1. HMBC, nOe, and COSY 45 connectivities observed in subunit **A** of **1**.

TABLE 2. Heteronuclear Correlations (^1H - ^{13}C -Nmr) of **1** (400 MHz, CDCl_3).

Carbon	δ	Multiplicity ($^{13}\text{C}/\text{DEPT}$)	HMQC	HMBC
1	22.67	CH_2	H-1	H-2, H-3'
2	31.44	CH_2	H-2	H-1, H-4, H-15
3	75.28	C	—	H-1, H-2, H-4, H-5, H-15
4	39.70	CH_2	H-4	H-2, H-5, H-15
5	22.19	CH_2	H-5	H-4, H-6
6	125.30	CH	H-6	H-4, H-5, H-14
7	134.20	C	—	H-5, H-8a, H-8b, H-9, H-14
8	39.04	CH_2	H-8	H-6, H-9, H-10, H-14
9	28.13	CH_2	H-9	H-8a, H-8b
10	146.25	CH	H-10	H-8a, H-8b, H-9, H-12
11	126.30	C	—	H-9, H-12
12	20.47	Me	H-12	H-10
13	173.63	C	—	H-12
14	15.73	Me	H-14	H-6, H-8a, H-8b
15	24.01	Me	H-15	H-2, H-4
1'	146.25	C	—	H-1, H-3', H-5', Me-6'
2'	120.86	C	—	H-1, H-2
3'	111.02	CH	H-3'	H-1, H-5'
4'	152.14	C	—	H-3', OMe-4'
5'	114.79	CH	H-5'	H-3', Me-6'
6'	127.17	C	—	Me-6'
Me-6'	16.24	Me	Me-6'	—
OMe-4'	55.58	Me	OMe-4'	—

ment with a linear olefinic chain (subunit **B**: Figures 1 and 2) linked to the subunit **A** at the C-3 position. An HMQC nmr experiment permitted the observation of protonated carbons in the ^{13}C -nmr spectrum. Assignment of the quaternary carbons was possible from the HMBC nmr spectrum, which also afforded additional evidence for the validity of structure **1** for polycerasoidin (Table 2). Thus, the correlation of the carboxyl group (C-13) to the three-proton signal at δ 1.89 (Me-12) and the correlation of this carbon at δ 20.47 (C-12) to the olefinic proton at δ 6.07 (CH-10), allowed the location of the carboxyl as the terminal group of the

chain (for other HMBC correlations, see Figure 2 and Table 2). The ^{13}C -nmr chemical shift of Me-14 at δ 15.73 (less than 20 ppm) indicated an *E* geometry for $\Delta^{6,7}$, while the chemical shifts for Me-12 in both the ^1H - and ^{13}C -nmr spectra (δ 1.89 and δ 20.50, respectively) indicated the *Z* stereochemistry for $\Delta^{10,11}$ (30,31).

Polycerasoidol [**2**] was obtained as a clear oil and showed $[\alpha]_D +6.6^\circ$ ($c=0.45$, MeOH); the eims revealed a fragment ion at m/z 358 [M^+], corresponding to a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_4$, while the uv absorptions at 294 and 234 nm were indicative of the same carbon skeleton as **1**. The high degree of similarity

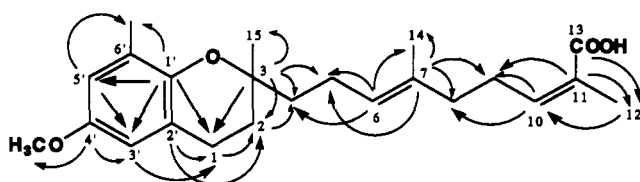


FIGURE 2. ^1H - ^{13}C long-range correlations established from the HMBC nmr of **1**.

in the herbarium of the University of Papua New Guinea.

EXTRACTION AND ISOLATION.—Dried and powdered stem bark of *P. cerasoides* (550 g) was macerated with MeOH at room temperature. The concentrated MeOH extract (A) was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and 50% aqueous MeOH. The CH₂Cl₂-soluble extract (B, 4.70 g) was washed with 5% aqueous KOH to remove acidic substances, yielding a CH₂Cl₂ extract (C, 4.05 g) and an aqueous fraction. After neutralization, the aqueous fraction extracted with CH₂Cl₂ gave 0.51 g of a further CH₂Cl₂ extract (D). Extract D was applied to a Si gel 60H column (Merck 7736) and eluted with CH₂Cl₂-EtOAc (6:4); fractions 8–33 were combined and chromatographed on Si gel 60H and hexane-CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (3:6.5:0.5) as eluent, and pure **1** (160 mg) and **2** (5 mg) were obtained as oils. Flash cc on Si gel (Merck 9385) was applied to the extract C and developed with hexane containing gradually increasing amounts of CH₂Cl₂; fractions 7–8 eluted with hexane-CH₂Cl₂ (5:5) were purified by cc to afford more compound **1** (586 mg).

Polycerasoidin [1].—Oil, [α]_D -16.2° (*c*=0.8, MeOH); ir (film) ν max 2926, 2848, 1686, 1636, 1604, 1480, 1219, 1149, 1094 cm⁻¹; ν λ max (EtOH) (log ϵ) 294 (3.04), 236 (4.20) nm; hreims *m/z* [M⁺] 372.23000 (75) (calcd for C₂₃H₃₂O₄, 372.23006), 218.13162 (5), 205.12298 (11), 203.10939 (5), 191.10608 (62), 189.08981 (36), 151.07641 (100), 150.06905 (42), 135.08024 (8), 123.08025 (9), 121.10097 (8), 105.06957 (7), 93.07072 (12), 91.05446 (23), 79.05595 (12), 55.05790 (19) (Scheme 1); ¹H- (300 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C- (75 MHz, CDCl₃) nmr data, see Tables 1 and 2 and Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

Polycerasoidol [2].—Oil; [α]_D +6.6° (*c*=0.45, MeOH); ir (film) ν max 3358, 2921, 2850, 1686, 1637, 1466, 1376, 1218, 1144, 1098 cm⁻¹; ν λ max (EtOH) (log ϵ) 294 (3.37), 234 (3.59) nm; eims *m/z* [M⁺] 358 (100), 203 (14), 189 (27), 177 (51), 137 (69), 121 (43), 91 (36), 77 (22), 55 (53), 43 (32), 41 (28); ¹H- (250 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C- (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃) nmr data, see Figure 3.

METHYLATION OF 1 TO GIVE 3.—Concentrated H₂SO₄ (0.5 ml) was added to a solution of **1** (5 mg) in MeOH (5 ml) and the mixture refluxed with stirring for 6 h. The solution was then neutralized with NaHCO₃ and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. Evaporation of the solvent gave a residue that was subjected to prep. tlc (hexane-CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 8.5:1:0.5) to afford **3** (3.5 mg, 67%): oil; ir (film) ν max 2927, 2849, 1718, 1641, 1480, 1450, 1149, 1097 cm⁻¹; eims *m/z* [M⁺] 386 (43), 259 (2), 218 (5), 205 (11), 203 (11), 191 (53), 189 (30), 175 (11), 151 (100), 150 (46), 135 (11), 121 (20), 105 (7), 93 (15), 91 (16), 77 (8), 47 (12); ¹H nmr (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.56 (1H, d, *J*=2.9 Hz,

CH-5'), 6.44 (1H, d, *J*=2.9 Hz, CH-3'), 5.92 (1H, dt, *J*=7.5 and 1 Hz, CH-10), 5.14 (1H, dt, *J*=7.5 and 1 Hz, CH-6), 3.74 (3H, s, COOCH₃), 3.72 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.72 (2H, t, *J*=7.2 Hz, CH₂-1), 2.55 (2H, ddd, *J*=15, 7.5, and 1 Hz, CH₂-9), 2.15 (3H, s, Me-6'), 2.07–2.14 (4H, m, CH₂-5 and CH₂-8), 1.89 (3H, d, *J*=1 Hz, Me-12), 1.60–1.80 (4H, m, CH₂-2 and CH₂-4), 1.59 (3H, br s, Me-14), 1.26 (3H, s, Me-15).

ACETYLATION OF 2 TO GIVE 4.—Acetylation of **2** (3 mg) by Ac₂O/pyridine, overnight at room temperature and conventional work-up, gave the monoacetate **4** (quantitative yield): oil; ir (film) ν max 2959, 2923, 2851, 1735, 1687, 1641, 1465, 1375, 1259, 1097 cm⁻¹; eims *m/z* [M⁺] 400 (14), 358 (33), 340 (6), 258 (5), 219 (12), 189 (14), 175 (27), 151 (9), 149 (11), 138 (16), 137 (48), 136 (19), 121 (25), 107 (12), 105 (7), 95 (13), 93 (17), 91 (11), 79 (22), 69 (19), 57 (22), 55 (37), 45 (18), 44 (31), 43 (100), 42 (93), 41 (52); ¹H nmr (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.69 (1H, d, *J*=2.7 Hz, H-5'), 6.59 (1H, d, *J*=2.7 Hz, H-3'), 2.26 (3H, s, OCOCH₃).

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