New Glycosides from Ajuga decumbens

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A new phenethyl alcohol glycoside, galactosylmartynoside (1), and a new abietatriene-type diterpene glycoside, ajugaside A (2), were isolated from the whole plants of *Ajuga decumbens*, together with known phenethyl alcohol glycosides (3 and 4) and iridoid glycosides (5–7). Chemical structures were elucidated on the basis of spectral data. Of these compounds, 8-acetylharpagide (6) exhibited the strongest inhibitory effect on Epstein–Barr virus activation induced by 12-*O*-tetradecanoylphorbol-13-acetate.

Ajuga decumbens Thunb. (Labiatae) is distributed widely in China, Korea, and Japan.^{1,2} The whole body of this plant has been used as a folk medicine for its antiinflammatory, antitussive, and expectorant effects in China and Japan.³ From the Ajuga species, several ecdysteroids,⁴⁻⁶ neoclerodane diterpenes,⁷⁻⁹ and iridoid glycosides^{10,11} had been isolated and reported. The activities as insect antifeedants and insect molting inhibitors had also been reported.⁴⁻⁹ In the course of our continuing chemical and biological studies on antitumor promoters (chemopreventive agents),¹²⁻¹⁵ we investigated the constituents of whole body of A. decumbens. Consequently, a new phenethyl alcohol glycoside, galactosylmartynoside (1), and diterpene glycoside, ajugaside A (2), were isolated from the EtOAc- and *n*-BuOH-soluble fractions of MeOH extract, together with two known phenethyl alcohol glycosides (3 and 4) and three iridoid glycosides (5-7). In this paper, we report the structure elucidations of these compounds and their inhibitory effects on Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) activation induced by a strong tumor promoter, 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol-13-acetate (TPA).^{16,17} Compounds 3-7 were identified as martynoside,^{18,19} darendoside B,²⁰ reptoside, 8-acetylharpagide, and harpagide,¹⁰ respectively, based on comparison with reported data (mp, IR, UV, $[\alpha]_D$, ¹H and ¹³C NMR).

Results and Discussion

Compound 1 was obtained as a pale yellow amorphous powder, and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{37}H_{50}O_{20}$ by HRFABMS. The IR (ν_{max} at 3500, 1710, 1635, 1515 cm⁻¹) and UV (λ_{max} at 329 and 220 nm) spectra of 1 showed the presence of hydroxyl and phenyl groups and an α,β -unsaturated ester. Further, in the positive FABMS of 1, quasimolecular ion peaks were observed at m/z 837 [M + Na]⁺ and 815 [M + H]⁺; fragment ion peaks were observed at m/z 653 [M - hexosyl]⁺ and 507 [653 - deoxyhexosyl]⁺. On acid hydrolysis, 1 afforded D-glucose, D-galactose, and L-rhamnose. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 1 showed three anomeric proton signals [at δ 5.58 (br s), 4.38 (d, J =

trisubstituted phenyl proton signals [at δ 7.20 (d, J =2.0 Hz), 7.08 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz), 6.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), δ 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.75 (d, J = 2.2 Hz), and 6.69 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.2 Hz)], and two olefinic proton signals [at δ 7.66 (d, J = 16.5 Hz) and 6.37 (d, J = 16.5 Hz)] indicating the *E* configuration. The HMBC spectrum of 1 showed long-range correlations from H-8 to C-1", from H-3" to C-1", from H-2" to C-1"", and from H-4" to C-9'. Further, the substitutions in a phenethyl alcohol and a phenyl propanoid of 1 were determined by a NOE difference experiment. On the basis of these spectral data, the structure of 1 was deduced to be a trisaccharide glycoside of 3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenethyl alcohol with a feruloyl ester group on the trisaccharide portion. The chemical shift values in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1 were compared with those of compounds 3 and 4, which were identified as martynoside and darendoside B, respectively. The glycosylation shift of the oxymethine carbon at C-2 of rhamnose was observed, and the ¹³C NMR data of 3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenethyl alcohol, feruloyl, and D-glucose moieties were superimposable on those of compound 3. Therefore, the structure of 1 was characterized as 3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenethyl 4'-feruloyl-3'-(2"-β-D-galactopyranosyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl)- β -D-glucopyranoside, named galactosylmartynoside.

7.5 Hz), and 4.36 (d, J = 7.5 Hz)], two sets of 1,3,4-

Ajugaside A (2) was obtained as colorless crystals, mp 195-197 °C, and its molecular formula was determined to be C₃₂H₅₀O₁₄ on the basis of HRFABMS. In the positive FABMS of 2, quasimolecular ion peaks were observed at m/z 681 [M + Na]⁺ and 659 [M + H]⁺, and fragment ion peaks were observed at m/z 497 [M hexosyl]+ and 335 [497 - hexosyl]+. The ¹³C NMR spectra and DEPT experiment on 2 disclosed the presence of six sp^2 carbons in which there were five quaternary carbons, two *sp*³ quaternary carbons, 12 *sp*³ methine carbons (including 10 oxymethine carbons), nine *sp*³ methylene carbons (including four oxygenated methylenes), and three sp^3 methyl carbons. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, three methyl proton signals at δ 1.30 (s), 1.12 (d, J = 7.2 Hz), and 1.07 (s); two anomeric proton signals at δ 4.38 (d, $J\!=$ 7.8 Hz) and 4.22 (d, $J\!=$ 8.4 Hz), indicating β -linkages; and one phenyl proton signal at δ 6.34 (s) were observed.

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In the HMBC spectrum, both the methyl protons at δ 1.12 and the oxygenated methylene protons at δ 3.43 and 3.59 showed long-range correlations with the phenyl carbon at δ 136.36, and the methine proton at δ 3.68 was correlated with the phenyl carbons at δ 143.14 and 118.23, which was also correlated with methylene protons at δ 2.73. Further, the methyl protons at δ 1.30 showed long-range correlations with the phenyl carbon at δ 134.95, the methine carbon at δ 55.89, and the methylene carbon at δ 37.79; and each anomeric proton at δ 4.38 and 4.22 showed correlations with the phenyl carbon at δ 143.14 and the oxygenated methylene carbon at δ 74.34, respectively. Other ¹H-¹³C longrange correlations, indicated by arrows in Figure 1a, were observed in the HMBC spectrum of 2. From results of ¹H-¹H COSY, homonuclear Hartmann-Hahn (HOHAHA), HSQC, and HMBC spectra, all proton and carbon signals could be assigned as shown in Table 2, and consequently, compound 2 was deduced to be a diglycoside of 11,12,16,19-tetrahydroxyabietatriene.

On acid hydrolysis of **2** with 5% H₂SO₄ in EtOH, a novel diterpene, 11,12,16,19-tetrahydroxyabieta-8,11,13triene (**2a**), the monoglucoside of **2a** (**2b**), and D-glucose were obtained. In the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **2b**, the signal of C-19 was shifted to higher field (-8.7 ppm), and the signal of C-4 was shifted to lower field (+0.7 ppm), whereas other signals were superimposable on those of **2** within \pm 0.1 ppm. Further, in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **2a**, the signals of the aromatic C-ring were shifted to lower or higher field compared with those of **2b** and **2**. These facts and the HMBC spectrum of **2** suggested that the glycosylation linkages of **2** were at C-12 and C-19, respectively.



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Figure 1. ${}^{1}H^{-1}H$ correlation and ${}^{1}H^{-13}C$ long-range correlation of ajugaside A (2). NOEs in difference NOE experiments of ajugaside A (2).

In the NOE difference experiments of **2**, irradiation of the methyl signal at δ 1.30 enhanced signal intensities of the oxygenated methylene protons at δ 3.69 and 3.89, one of methylene protons at δ 1.56 (H-6 β) and 1.74 (H-2 β), and irradiation of the methyl signal at δ 1.07 enhanced signal intensities of the methine proton at δ 1.33 and one of the methylene protons at δ 1.02 (H-3 α). Further, irradiation of the phenyl signal at δ 6.34 enhanced signal intensities of the methyl protons at δ 1.12 and methylene protons at δ 2.73, as shown in Figure 1b. Therefore, the structure of ajugaside A was characterized as **2**, including the relative configuration at C-4, C-5, and C-10.

Although several kinds of oxygenated abieta-8,11,13trienes had been isolated from *Salvia* species^{21–23} so far, the isolation of **2** is the first example of an abieta-8,11,13-triene derivative in *Ajuga* species.

The inhibitory effects of these glycosides (1-7) on EBV activation induced by TPA were examined via a primary screening for antitumor-promoter activity,^{16,17} and the results are shown in Table 3. Of these compounds, 8-acetylharpagide (**6**) exhibited the most significant inhibitory effects (more than 80% and 35% inhibition of activation at 5×10^2 and 1×10^2 mol ratio to TPA, respectively) on EBV activation. Investigations of the absolute configuration of **2** and the inhibitory effects of **6** on two-stage carcinogenesis in vivo are in progress.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. Melting points were determined on a Yanagimoto melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded in KBr on a Shimadzu FT IR-8100 A spectrom-

Table 1. ¹³C NMR Chemical Shift Values (δ) of **1**, **3**, and **4** (in CD₃OD, 150 MHz)

		1	3	4
aglycon	1	133.01	132.90	132.93
2-(3-hydroxy-4-	2	117.13	117.08	117.07
methoxyphenyl)ethanol	3	147.39	147.41	147.37
	4	147.57	147.57	147.53
	5	112.90	112.83	112.83
	6	121.20	121.16	121.14
	7	36.56	36.59	36.58
	8	72.10	72.15	71.99
	OMe	56.52	56.48	56.48
feruloyl	1′	127.65	127.66	
-	2′	111.79	111.75	
	3′	149.44	149.40	
	4'	150.90	150.86	
	5'	116.55	116.51	
	6'	124.37	124.16	
	7′	147.90	147.91	
	8′	115.08	115.12	
	9′	168.21	168.25	
	OMe	56.48	56.45	
D-glucose	1″	104.17	104.25	104.24
-	2''	76.15	76.24	75.65
	3″	82.87	81.53	84.47
	$4^{\prime\prime}$	70.51	70.63	70.07
	5''	76.03	76.09	77.88
	6″	62.38	62.41	62.68
L-rhamnose	1‴	102.38	103.02	102.78
	2‴	83.07	72.38	72.37
	3‴	71.87	72.08	72.24
	$4^{\prime\prime\prime}$	74.16	73.79	73.99
	$5^{\prime\prime\prime}$	70.39	70.44	70.20
	6‴	18.45	18.47	17.91
D-galactose	1‴‴	107.63		
	2″‴	72.86		
	3''''	74.92		
	4''''	70.45		
	5‴″	76.99		
	6''''	62.85		

eter, and UV spectra were recorded in MeOH on a Shimadzu UV-1600 spectrometer. Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO DIP-370 digital polarimeter at 24 °C. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian XL-300 spectrometer and JEOL JNM-A 600 spectrometer with tetramethylsilane as internal standard. Positive FABMS were obtained on a JEOL JMS-SX 102 mass spectrometer. Recycle preparative HPLC was carried out on a Japan Analytical Industry LC-908 using a JAIGEL 310 column (Ø 20 mm × 500 mm × 2, solvent; MeOH) with RI and UV detector.

Plant Material. The whole plant of *Ajuga decumbens* Thunb. was purchased in January 1996, from Tochimoto-tenkai-do Co. Ltd., Osaka, Japan. A voucher specimen (#970101) is deposited in the herbarium of Kyoto Pharmaceutical University.

Extraction and Isolation. Chopped, dried, whole plants of *A. decumbens* (4.9 kg) were extracted with MeOH at room temperature. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, a dark green-brown residue (549 g) remained. The residue was suspended in H₂O and extracted several times with *n*-hexane. The aqueous layer was then extracted with CHCl₃, EtOAc, and *n*-BuOH saturated with H₂O, successively. Each organic layer was evaporated in vacuo to give residue (*n*-hexane 93.1 g, CHCl₃ 9.6 g, EtOAc 12.5 g, and *n*-BuOH 111.0 g). The EtOAc extract (12.5 g) was subjected to column chromatography on Si gel eluted with CHCl₃ containing increasing amounts of MeOH to provide fractions 1–9. Fractions 5 (eluted with 5% MeOH in

Table 2. ¹³C NMR Chemical Shift Values (δ) of **2**, **2a**, and **2b** (in CD₃OD)

carbon no.	2 ^a	$\mathbf{2a}^{b}$	2b ^b
1	37.79 (t) ^c	37.87 (t) ^c	37.78
2	20.23 (t)	20.15 (t)	20.11
3	37.00 (t)	36.64 (t)	36.64
4	39.61 (s)	40.32 (s)	40.34
5	55.89 (d)	55.68 (d)	55.69
6	20.64 (t)	20.76 (t)	20.68
7	34.44 (t)	34.16 (t)	34.46
8	135.17 (s)	134.30 (s)	135.15
9	134.95 (s)	129.79 (s)	134.90
10	40.61 (s)	40.35 (s)	40.61
11	149.10 (s)	146.08 (s)	149.13
12	143.14 (s)	141.23 (s)	143.18
13	136.36 (s)	130.56 (s)	136.42
14	118.23 (d)	119.32 (d)	118.24
15	34.87 (d)	38.05 (d)	34.89
16	69.14 (t)	69.11 (t)	69.15
17	18.40 (q)	16.71 (q)	18.39
18	28.59 (q)	28.05 (q)	28.05
19	74.34 (t)	65.62 (t)	65.64
20	20.70 (q)	21.00 (q)	20.68
G-1′	107.77 (d)		107.82
-2′	75.61 (d)		75.63
-3′	78.98 (d)		79.03
-4′	71.52 (d)		71.54
-5′	77.98 (d)		77.99
-6′	63.01 (t)		63.04
G-1″	105.48 (d)		
-2″	75.38 (d)		
-3″	78.22 (d)		
-4″	71.72 (d)		
-5″	77.82 (d)		
-6″	62.81 (t)		

^{*a*} Data recorded at 150 MHz. ^{*b*} Data recorded at 75 MHz. ^{*c*} Carbon type as determined by DEPT spectra.

Table 3. Percentages of EBV–EA Induction in Presence of Glycosides (1–7) with Respect to Positive Control (100%)

	concentration ^a					
compound	1000	500	100	10		
1	0.0 ^b (60) ^c	31.8 (>80)	76.0 (>80)	98.5 (>80)		
2	0.0 (60)	24.9 (>80)	68.3 (>80)	91.0 (>80)		
3	0.0 (60)	31.7 (>80)	66.4 (>80)	89.4 (>80)		
4	22.6 (70)	53.8 (>80)	81.6 (>80)	100.0 (>80)		
5	0.0 (60)	22.4 (>80)	71.3 (>80)	90.3 (>80)		
6	0.0 (60)	19.9 (>80)	62.6 (>80)	89.5 (>80)		
7	0.0 (60)	52.7 (>80)	80.1 (>80)	100.0 (>80)		

 a Mol ratio/TPA (20 ng = 32 pmol/mL). b Values represent percentages to the positive control values (100%). c Values in parentheses represent viability percentages of Raji cells.

CHCl₃, 2.0 g), 6 (eluted with 6% MeOH in CHCl₃, 427 mg), and 7 (eluted with 7.5% MeOH in CHCl₃, 1.5 g) were subjected to column chromatography on Si gel [solvent system: CHCl₃-MeOH-H₂O (8:3:1)] repeatedly, followed by recycle preparative HPLC. Consequently, reptoside (5, 217.2 mg) was obtained from fraction 5, martynoside A (3, 5.0 mg) was obtained from fraction 6, and 8-acetylharpagide (6, 246.7 mg) was obtained from fraction 7. The *n*-BuOH extract (27.3 g) was also subjected to column chromatography on Si gel eluted with a solution of MeOH in CHCl₃ to provide fractions 1-11. Fractions 3-8 eluted with 7.5 and 10% MeOH in CHCl₃ were rechromatographed on Si gel [solvent system: CHCl₃-MeOH-H₂O (9:1:0.1, 8:3:1, and 13:7:2)] repeatedly, followed by recycle preparative HPLC. Compounds 5 (1.05 g), 6 (4.64 g), and darendoside A (4, 8.8 mg) were isolated. Further, fractions 9-11, eluted with 15, 25, and 30% MeOH in CHCl₃, were subjected to column chromatography on Si gel [solvent system: $CHCl_3-MeOH-H_2O$ (8:3:1 and 13:7: 2) and ODS [solvent system: $MeOH-H_2O$ (10:90, 20: 80, and 40:60)] repeatedly, followed by recycle preparative HPLC. Consequently, galactosylmartynoside (1, 18.1 mg), ajugaside A (2, 7.0 mg), and harpagide (7, 473.2 mg) were isolated, together with compounds 5 (50 mg) and **6** (3.16 g). Compounds 3-7 were identified by comparison with reported data.^{10,18-20}

Galactosylmartynoside (1): amorphous powder; $[\alpha]^{25}_{\rm D}$ -37.4° (*c* 0.34, MeOH); UV (EtOH) $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (log ϵ) 329 (4.42), 289 (4.21), 220 (4.39) nm; IR (KBr) v_{max} 3400, 1710, 1635, 1595, 1515, 1275, 1160, 1130 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 600 MHz) & 2.82 (2H, m, H₂-7), 3.27 (1H, t like, H-4""), 3.38 (1H, t like, H-2"), 3.45 (1H, dd, J = 9.6, 3.6 Hz, H-3""), 3.57 (1H, t like, H-2""), 3.65 (1H, dd, J = 9.6, 3.6 Hz, H-3"), 3.75 (1H, m, H-8a), 3.77 (1H, m, H-3"), 3.81 (3H, s, 4-OMe), 3.89 (3H, s, 3'-OMe), 3.98 (1H, br s, H-2''), 4.05 (1H, m, H-8b), 4.36 (1H, d, J =7.5 Hz, H-1""), 4.38 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-1"), 4.92 (1H, t like, H-4"), 5.58 (1H, br s, H-1""), 6.37 (1H, d, J=16.5 Hz, H-8'), 6.69 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, H-6), 6.75 (1H, d, J = 2.2 Hz, H-2), 6.81 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-5'), 6.83 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-5), 7.08 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz)H-6'), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, H-2'), 7.66 (1H, d, J = 16.5 Hz, H-7');¹³C NMR, see Table 1; FABMS (positive) m/z 837 [M + Na]⁺, 815 [M + H]⁺, 653 [M + H galactosyl]⁺, 507 [653 – rhamnosyl]⁺; HRFABMS m/z815.2972 (calcd for C₃₇H₅₁O₂₀, 815.2973).

Acid Hydrolysis of 1 and Identification of Monosaccharides. Compound 1 (10 mg) was refluxed in 10% H₂SO₄ for 1 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with Amberlite IR-45 and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in dry pyridine (0.2 mL) and added to a solution of L-cysteine methyl ester hydrochloride in pyridine (0.05 mol/L, 0.3 mL). After the mixture was heated at 60 °C for 1 h under N₂ flow, solvent was removed and trimethylsilylimidazole (0.2 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 1 h and applied to the GLC analysis (column: ULBON-HR-1701, 0.25 mm \times 25 m; column temperature 240 °C; carrier gas He, 1.0 kg/cm²; FID detector). D-Glucose (t_R 18.5 min), D-galactose (t_R 20.3 min), and L-rhamnose ($t_{\rm R}$ 13.4 min) were identified with authentic samples.24

Ajugaside A (2): colorless crystals (MeOH); mp 195-197 °C, $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$ + 2.8° (*c* 0.66, MeOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3450, 1545 cm^-1; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 600 MHz) δ 1.02 (1H, ddd, J = 13.8, 13.2, 4.2 Hz, H-3 α), 1.07 (3H, s, Me-18), 1.12 (3H, d, J = 7.2 Hz, Me-17), 1.16 (1H, ddd, J = 13.2, 3.6)Hz, H-1 α), 1.30 (3H, s, Me-20), 1.33 (1H, d, J = 12.0Hz, H-5), 1.47 (1H, m, H-2 α), 1.56 (1H, m, H-6 β), 1.74 $(1H, m, H-2\beta)$, 1.94 (1H, br dd, J = 13.2, 4.8 Hz, H-6 α), 2.00 (1H, br d, J = 13.2 Hz, H-3 β), 2.73 (2H, m, H₂-7), $3.30 (1H, m, H-1\beta), 3.68 (1H, m, H-15), 3.59 (1H, dd, J)$ = 10.5, 6.3 Hz, H-16a), 3.69, 3.89 (each 1H, ABd, J =12.6 Hz, H₂-19), 4.22 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz, H-1"), 4.38 $(1H, d, J = 7.8 \text{ Hz}, \text{H-1'}), 6.34 (1H, s, \text{H-14}); {}^{13}\text{C NMR},$ see Table 2; FABMS (positive) m/z 681 [M + Na]⁺, 659 $[M + H]^+$, 497 $[M + H - glucosyl]^+$, 335 [497 glucosyl]⁺; HRFABMS m/z 659.3287 (calcd for C₃₂-H₅₀O₁₄: 659.3279).

Acid Hydrolysis of 2. Compound 2 (12.4 mg) was dissolved in 5% H₂SO₄ in EtOH and refluxed for 3 h.

The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo to half volume, and extracted with $CHCl_3$ and EtOAc. The $CHCl_3$ extract was purified by column chromatography on Si gel to afford 1.5 mg of **2a** as amorphous powder. The EtOAc extract was purified by column chromatography on Sephadex LH-20 to afford 2.0 mg of **2b**. The aqueous layer was neutralized with Amberlite IR-45 and treated with in same manner as **1** to identify D-glucose.

11,12,16,19-Tetrahydroxyabieta-8,11,13-triene (2a): amorphous powder; $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{\rm D}$ -7.2° (*c* 0.25, MeOH); IR (KBr) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 3450, 1545 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 300 MHz) δ 1.02 (3H, s, Me-18), 1.23 (3H, d, J = 7.2 Hz, Me-17), 1.29 (3H, s, Me-20), 2.71 (2H, m, H₂-7), 3.07 (1H, m, H-1 β), 3.43, 3.83 (ABd, J = 11.2 Hz, H₂-19), 3.62 (1H, dd, J = 10.3, 6.0 Hz, H-16a), 3.67 (1H, dd, J = 10.3, 5.4 Hz, H-16b), 6.27 (1H, s, H-14); ¹³C NMR, see Table 2; FABMS (positive) m/z 335 [M + H]⁺, 334 [M]⁺; HR-FABMS m/z 334.2150 (calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₄, 334.2144).

Monoglucoside (2b): amorphous powder; $[\alpha]^{22}_{\rm D}$ -29.8 ° (*c* 0.18, MeOH); IR (KBr) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 3450, 1545 cm⁻¹, ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 300 MHz) δ 1.02 (3H, s, Me-18), 1.12 (3H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, Me-17), 1.29 (3H, s, Me-20), 2.74 (2H, m, H₂-7), 3.42, 3.82 (ABd, *J* = 11.3 Hz, H₂-19), 4.38 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, anomeric H), 6.35 (1H, s, H-14); ¹³C NMR, see Table 2; FABMS (positive) *m*/*z* 519 [M + Na]⁺, 497 [M + H]⁺, 335 [M + H – hexosyl]⁺; HRFABMS *m*/*z* 519.2565 (calcd for C₂₆H₄₀O₉Na, 519.2570).

EBV Activation Experiment. The EBV genomecarrying lymphoblastoid cells, Raji cells, derived from Barkitt's lymphoma, were cultivated in RPMI-1640 medium. The Raji cells were incubated for 48 h at 37 °C in a medium containing butyric acid (4 mmol), TPA (32 pmol), and various amounts of the test compounds. Smears were made from the cell suspension, and the EBV–early antigen-inducing cells were stained by means of an indirect immunofluorescence technique. The details of the in vitro assay on EBV activation have been reported previously.^{16,17}

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