

Cytotoxic Biflavonoids from *Selaginella delicatula*

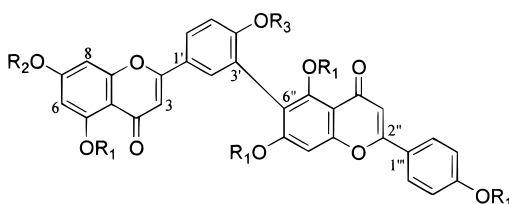
Lie-Chwen Lin,* Yuh-Chi Kuo, and Cheng-Jen Chou

National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine, Pettou, Taipei 112, Taiwan, Republic of China

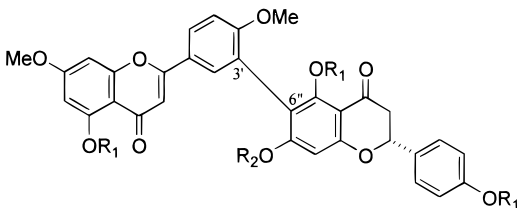
Received November 1, 1999

Four new biflavonoids—robustaflavone 4'-methyl ether (**1**), robustaflavone 7,4'-dimethyl ether (**2**), 2'',3''-dihydrorobustaflavone 7,4',-dimethyl ether (**3**), and 2'',3''-dihydrorobustaflavone 7,4', 7''-trimethyl ether (**4**)—as well as two known biflavonoids, robustaflavone and amentoflavone, and three caffeoylquinic acids, 3,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid, 3,4-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid, and 4,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid, were isolated from *Selaginella delicatula*. The structures of the new compounds were established by spectroscopic analysis and chemical modification. The cytotoxic activity of these compounds on various tumor cell lines was evaluated, and both compounds **1** and **3** significantly suppressed the growth of Raji and Calu-1 tumor cell lines.

The genus *Selaginella* is rich in biflavonoids,^{1–6} and some of the members of this genus are used extensively in Chinese traditional medicine in the treatment of cancer,^{4,7} gastritis,⁸ hepatitis,⁸ and cardiovascular diseases.⁹ *Selaginella delicatula* Desv. Alston (Selaginellaceae) is a perennial herb growing throughout the mountain forest floors at low and medium altitudes in Taiwan.¹⁰ Biflavonoids¹¹ and sterols¹² have been reported from *S. delicatula*; we have reexamined the whole plant of this species and report herein the isolation and characterization of four new biflavonoids (**1–4**), besides five known compounds: robustaflavone (**5**), amentoflavone (**6**), 3,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid, 3,4-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid, and 4,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid. These compounds were evaluated for their cytotoxicity against a small panel of human tumor cell lines.



- 1** R₁=H R₂=H R₃=Me
1a R₁=R₂=Ac R₃=Me
2 R₁=H R₂=R₃=Me
2a R₁=Ac R₂=R₃=Me



- 3** R₁=R₂=H
3a R₁=R₂=Ac
4 R₁=H R₂=Me
4a R₁=Ac R₂=Me

Results and Discussion

Compound **1** was obtained as a yellow powder. The positive FABMS of **1** gave a pseudomolecular ion at *m/z*

553 [M + H]⁺, corresponding to a molecular formula of C₃₁H₂₀O₁₀, which was confirmed by HRFABMS (found *m/z* 553.11345, calcd 553.11347), consistent with the compound being a biflavonoid. The IR spectrum showed absorption bands 3400, 1653, 1627, 1515, and 1440 cm⁻¹, suggesting the presence of hydroxyl, chelated carbonyl, and aromatic ring functionalities. The ¹H NMR spectra of **1** and its acetate (**1a**) proved the presence of five hydroxyl groups in **1** of which two appeared downfield at δ 12.95 and 13.22, indicating the presence of chelated hydroxyls at the C-5 and C-5'' positions. The UV spectrum of **1** in methanol exhibited absorption maxima at 340 and 270 nm, and addition of sodium methoxide caused band I to shift to 394 nm, indicating the presence of a free hydroxyl group at C-4' or C-4''.¹³ The ¹³C NMR spectrum of **1** showed signals for all 31 carbons of the molecule, including one methoxyl group (55.8 ppm) and two carbonyl groups (181.8 and 181.7 ppm). The ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** showed the presence of an ABM coupling system, with signals at δ 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, H-6'), 7.82 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, H-2), and 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-5'), indicating that C-3' was the position of linkage of the two flavonoid units.¹⁴ Two *meta*-coupled proton signals at H-6 and H-8 appeared at δ 6.20 and 6.50 (*J* = 2.0 Hz), and an A₂X₂ coupling system was established from the signals at δ 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-3''', -5''') and 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-2''', -6'''). Further, three proton signals appeared at δ 6.87 (s, H-3), 6.82 (s, H-3'') and 6.64 (s, H-8''), which were confirmed by an HMBC experiment. The remaining signal at δ 3.80 (3H, s) showed a cross-peak with δ 7.24 (H-5') in the NOESY spectrum, which confirmed that the OCH₃ group is attached to C-4'. In the HMBC spectrum, the C-6'' signal at δ 108.6 was correlated with resonance at δ 6.64 (H-8''), 7.82 (H-2''), and 13.22 (OH-5''), and the resonance at δ 122.6 (C-3') correlated with the H-5' signal (δ 7.24), indicating that **1** was a biflavonoid with a C-3'–C-6'' interflavonoid linkage corresponding to the robustaflavone series.¹⁵ On comparison of the ¹³C NMR spectrum (Table 2) with that of robustaflavone,¹⁵ it was observed that C-1' and C-5' in **1** showed a downfield shift of Δ1.7 ppm and an upfield shift of Δ4.4 ppm, respectively. Therefore, compound **1** was identified as the new compound, robustaflavone 4'-methyl ether.

Compound **2** was isolated as a yellow powder. The IR spectrum and UV absorption maxima of **2** were very similar those of **1**, which suggested that both compounds possess the same flavonoid skeleton. On acetylation, **2** gave a tetraacetate. HRFABMS of **2** gave a pseudomolecular ion

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel.: 886-2-28201999, ext. 8341. Fax: 886-2-28264276. E-mail: lclin@cma23.nricm.edu.tw.

Table 1. ^1H NMR Data of Compounds **1–4**^a

proton	1	2	3	4
3	6.87 (s)	6.96 (s)	6.94 (s)	6.94 (s)
6	6.20 (d, 2.0)	6.34 (d, 2.2)	6.35 (d, 2.0)	6.36 (br s)
8	6.50 (d, 2.0)	6.82 (d, 2.2)	6.85 (d, 2.0)	6.82 (br s)
2'	7.82 (d, 2.0)	7.87 (d, 2.0)	7.82 (d, 2.0)	7.82 (d, 2.0)
5'	7.24 (d, 8.5)	7.25 (d, 8.5)	7.22 (d, 8.5)	7.22 (d, 8.5)
6''	8.08 (dd, 2.0, 8.5)	8.11 (dd, 2.0, 8.5)	8.11 (dd, 2.0, 8.5)	8.10 (dd, 2.0, 8.5)
2''			5.53 (dd, 3.0, 13.0)	5.53 (dd, 2.5, 13.0)
3''	6.82 (s)	6.78 (s)	2.73 (dd, 3.0, 17.5)	2.77 (dd, 2.5, 17.5)
			3.27 (dd, 13.0, 17.5)	3.29 (dd, 13.0, 17.5)
8''	6.64 (s)	6.63 (s)	6.07 (s)	6.34 (s)
2'''/6'''	7.96 (d, 8.5)	7.94 (d, 8.0)	7.35 (d, 8.0)	7.38 (d, 8.5)
3'''/5'''	6.94 (d, 8.5)	6.94 (d, 8.0)	6.81 (d, 8.0)	6.84 (d, 8.5)
OH-5	12.95 (br s)	12.93 (br s)	12.93 (br s)	12.94 (br s)
OH-5''	13.22 (br s)	13.22 (br s)	12.37 (br s)	12.18 (br s)
-OH			10.72 (br s)	9.62 (br s)
-OH			9.60 (br s)	
OMe-7		3.84 (s)	3.83 (s)	3.84 (s)
OMe-4''	3.80 (s)	3.81 (s)	3.78 (s)	3.78 (s)
OMe-7''				3.72 (s)

^a Measured in DMSO-*d*₆; multiplicity and coupling constant (*J* in Hz) assigned in parentheses; br s, broad singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; s, singlet.

Table 2. ^{13}C NMR Data of Compounds **1–4**^a

carbon	1	2	3	4
2	163.4	163.7	163.7	163.6
3	103.5	103.7	103.6	103.7
4	181.8	181.8	181.9	181.9
5	161.1	161.1	161.1	161.1
6	98.8	98.2	98.2	98.1
7	164.0	165.2	165.2	165.2
8	94.1	92.7	92.7	92.7
9	157.4	157.4	157.3	157.3
10	103.8	104.8	104.8	104.7
1'	122.4	122.2	122.1	122.2
2'	130.3	130.3	130.4	130.2
3'	122.6	122.7	122.7	122.4
4'	160.6	160.8	160.9	160.8
5'	111.7	111.8	111.7	111.7
6'	127.9	128.0	127.9	128.0
2''	163.7	163.7	78.3	78.6
3''	102.9	102.8	41.9	41.9
4''	181.7	182.0	196.6	197.1
5''	158.9	158.9	160.9	159.6
6''	108.6	108.6	105.4	106.1
7''	161.4	161.2	164.3	165.0
8''	93.4	93.5	94.5	91.5
9''	156.4	156.4	161.9	162.9
10''	103.8	103.4	101.5	102.3
1'''	121.2	121.2	128.9	128.7
2'''	128.5	128.5	128.4	128.4
3'''	115.9	116.0	115.2	115.2
4'''	161.1	161.1	157.8	157.8
5'''	115.9	116.0	115.2	115.2
6'''	128.5	128.5	128.4	128.4
OMe-7		56.1	56.1	56.0
OMe-4'	55.8	55.9	55.8	55.9
OMe-7''				56.3

^a Measured in DMSO-*d*₆ and based on ^{13}C DEPT, ^1H - ^1H COSY, HMQC, and HMBC spectra.

at m/z 567.12852 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺ (calcd 567.12912), corresponding to a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{10}$, indicating that this compound is a methyl derivative of **1**. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of **2** closely resembled most of **1**, except for the appearance of a methoxyl-group signal at C-7, which was proved by the NOESY spectrum where cross-peaks were observed between H-6 (δ 6.34) and OCH_3 -7 (δ 3.81) and between H-8 (δ 6.82) and OCH_3 -7. In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum, C-8 showed a downfield shift of $\Delta 1.4$ ppm when compared with **1**,¹⁵ which was further proof of the above assignment. Therefore, compound **2** was characterized as robustaflavone 7,4'-dimethyl ether.

The positive FABMS of **3** gave a pseudomolecular ion at m/z 569 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺ corresponding to a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_{10}$, which was confirmed by HRFABMS (found m/z 569.14243 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺, calcd 569.14477). The IR spectrum showed absorption bands at 3395, 1654, 1604, 1563, 1497, and 1440 cm^{-1} , suggesting the presence of hydroxyl, chelated-carbonyl, and aromatic-ring groups. On acetylation, **3** gave a tetraacetate. The UV spectrum of **3** in methanol exhibited absorption maxima at 335, 293, and 269 nm. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **3** showed signals for all 32 carbons of the molecule, including two methoxyl groups (δ 55.8, 56.1) and two carbonyl groups (δ 196.6 and 181.9). The ^1H NMR spectrum of **3** exhibited a one-proton singlet at δ 6.94 and three double doublets at δ 5.53 (H-2''), 3.27 (H-3'' α), and 2.73 (H-3'' β), characteristic of a flavone and flavanone unit,¹³ respectively. The ^1H NMR spectrum of the flavone portion (Table 1) of **3** was similar to that of **2**. Furthermore, an A_2X_2 coupling system appeared at δ 6.81 (H-3''', -5''') and 7.35 (H-2''', -6'''), and a proton singlet appeared at δ 6.07 (H-8'') in the flavanone portion. The HMBC spectrum of **3** confirmed the involvement of C-3' (δ 122.7) and C-6'' (δ 105.4) in the interflavonoid linkage as these carbons correlated with H-5' (δ 7.22) and with H-2' (δ 7.82), H-8'' (δ 6.07), and OH-5'' (δ 12.37), respectively. The signals at δ 160.9 (C-4') and 165.2 (C-7) correlated with δ 3.78 and 3.83, respectively, indicating that C-4' and C-7 were methoxylated. Thus, compound **3** was determined structurally as 2'',3''-dihydrorobustaflavone 7,4'-dimethyl ether.

The HRFABMS of **4** gave a pseudomolecular ion at m/z 583.16044 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺ (calcd 583.16042) corresponding to a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_{10}$, consistent with being a methyl derivative of **3**. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of **4** closely resembled those of **3** except for the additional signal of a methoxyl group, which was proved by the NOESY spectrum where a cross-peak was observed between H-8'' (δ 6.34) and OCH_3 -7'' (δ 3.72). The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **4** showed a highfield shift of $\Delta 3.0$ ppm for C-8'' when compared to that of **3**, which was further proof of the above assignment. Therefore, compound **4** was elucidated structurally as 2'',3''-dihydrorobustaflavone 7,4',7''-trimethyl ether.

All of the isolated biflavonoids were tested against a panel of human cancer cell lines according to established protocols.¹⁶ With the exception of compounds **1** and **3**, no inhibitory activity on tumor cells was detected in the other

Table 3. The Inhibitory Activity of Compounds **1** and **3** on Various Tumor Cell Growth^a

compound	dose (μ M)	Cell Line					
		Raji	Calu-1	K562 inhibitory activity (%)	Vero	Wish	HeLa
1	100	98.4 \pm 3.7	100 \pm 3.5	10.8 \pm 3.5	-6.6 \pm 2.9	-90.0 \pm 5.2	5.5 \pm 3.2
	50	68.5 \pm 3.2	77.9 \pm 1.5	N.D. ^b	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	25	60.7 \pm 1.9	44.6 \pm 2.0	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	12.5	34.2 \pm 5.7	42.6 \pm 2.4	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
3	100	96.3 \pm 5.3	100 \pm 5.5	18.0 \pm 4.6	26.8 \pm 2.2	-65.0 \pm 3.2	35.0 \pm 2.8
	50	24.7 \pm 3.5	55.4 \pm 3.2	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	25	22.3 \pm 3.4	29.9 \pm 2.0	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
	12.5	17.9 \pm 2.4	15.8 \pm 2.1	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.

^a Each tumor cell line was cultured with or without various concentrations of compound **1** or compound **3** for 3 days. Then tritiated thymidine was pulsed for 16 h before harvest. Radioactivity was determined by a scintillation counter, and inhibitory activity was calculated. Each value represents the mean of three independent experiments. ^b N.D.: not done.

test compounds because these gave IC₅₀ values higher than 100 μ M. As shown in Table 3, both compounds **1** and **3** significantly inhibited Raji and Calu-1 cell growth in a concentration-dependent manner. By contrast, compounds **1** and **3** had no suppressory activity on K562, HeLa, Vero, and Wish tumor cell lines.

These results show that *S. delicatula* biflavonoids possess mainly the C-3'-C-6'' interflavonoid linkage instead of the C-3'-C-8'' interflavonoid linkage, which is common for most of the biflavonoids in the genus of *Selaginella*. *S. delicatula*, similar to other *Selaginella* species, contained biflavonoid substances that exhibited the cytotoxic activities against cancer cells in cultures.^{5,6}

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. Melting points were determined with a Yanagimoto micromelting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were obtained as KBr pellets on a Perkin-Elmer 781 IR spectrometer. UV spectra were obtained on a Hitachi U-3200 spectrophotometer in MeOH. ¹H, ¹³C, and 2D NMR spectra were measured with a Varian Inova-500 spectrometer with deuterated solvent as internal standard. FABMS and HRFABMS were recorded in the positive ion mode on a JEOL JMX-SX 102A and a JEOL JMS-HX 110 spectrometer, respectively.

Plant Material. The whole plant of *S. delicatula* was collected at Lienhuachyr, Hualien, Taiwan, in October 1997. A voucher specimen has been deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Botany of the National Taiwan University.

Extraction and Isolation. The whole plant of *S. delicatula* (6.0 kg) was extracted with 50% EtOH (40 L \times 3). The solvent was evaporated in vacuo at ca. 50 $^{\circ}$ C to give 767 g of residue. This crude extract was partitioned successively between H₂O and EtOAc, followed by *n*-BuOH, yielding 200, 130, and 437 g of each residue, respectively. The EtOAc extract was subjected to Si gel column chromatography with a gradient of EtOAc in *n*-hexane, and 13 fractions were collected. Fractions 10 (20 g) and 11 (72 g) were rechromatographed individually over Sephadex LH-20, eluting with acetone. Fractions were collected in 200-mL portions and pooled according to their TLC profiles in MeOH-CHCl₃ (silica gel, 5%). Of these, fractions 10-1, 10-2, 11-5, and 11-7 were individually further purified by Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography (acetone) and Si gel MPLC (MeOH-CHCl₃, 2-5%) to give **4** (48 mg) from fraction 10-1; **3** (354 mg) from fraction 10-2; amentoflavone (**6**, 39 mg),^{15,17} **1** (351 mg), and **2** (10 mg) from fraction 11-5; and robustaflavone (**5**, 40 mg)¹⁵ from fraction 11-7. The *n*-BuOH extract was subjected to chromatography on a Sephadex LH-20 column and eluted with acetone to give fractions I-VI. Subfraction V was rechromatographed repeatedly over Sephadex LH-20, eluting with MeOH to give 3,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid (14 mg);¹⁸ 3,4-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid (12 mg);¹⁸ and 4,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid (7 mg).¹⁸

Robustaflavone 4'-methyl ether (1): pale yellow powder (MeOH); mp >300 $^{\circ}$ C; UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 340 (4.14), 270 (4.09) nm; (+ NaOMe) 394, 276 nm; (+ AlCl₃) 395 (sh),

354, 302, 279 nm; (+ AlCl₃-HCl) 391 (sh), 348, 301, 279 nm; (+ NaOAc) 343, 271 nm; (+ NaOAc-H₃BO₃) 341, 270 nm; IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3400 (OH), 1653, 1630 (C=O), 1515, 1440, 1367, 1291, 1253, 1167, 1030, 1013 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) data, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively; FABMS *m/z* 553 [M + H]⁺; HRFABMS *m/z* 553.11345 [M + H]⁺ (calcd 553.11347 for C₃₁H₂₀O₁₀).

Acetylation of 1. Compound **1** (10 mg) was dissolved in a mixture of pyridine (2 mL) and Ac₂O (2 mL). The reaction mixture was maintained at room temperature for 24 h, then poured into ice water. The product was extracted with CHCl₃ and purified with preparative TLC to give a pentaacetate (**1a**): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.05, 2.21, 2.34, 2.36, 2.48 (3H each, s, -OAc m-5), 3.84, (3H, s, OMe-4'), 6.61 (1H, s, H-3), 6.68 (1H, s, H-3''), 6.85 (1H, br s, H-6), 7.11 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-5'), 7.28 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-3'''), -5'''), 7.33 (1H, br s, H-8), 7.45 (1H, s, H-8''), 7.77 (1H, s, H-2'), 7.91 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-6'), 7.92 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-2''', -6'''); APCIMS *m/z* 763 [M + H]⁺, 721 (M⁺ - COCH₂ + H), 679 (M⁺ - COCH₂ \times 2 + H), 637 (M⁺ - COCH₂ \times 3 + H), 595 (M⁺ - COCH₂ \times 4 + H), 553 (M⁺ - COCH₂ \times 5 + H).

Robustaflavone 7,4'-dimethyl ether (2): yellow powder (MeOH); mp >300 $^{\circ}$ C; UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 338 (3.09), 270 (3.03) nm; (+ NaOMe) 392, 333, 274 nm; (+ AlCl₃) 390 (sh), 352, 301, 279 nm; (+ AlCl₃-HCl) 390 (sh), 349, 301, 279 nm; (+ NaOAc) 337, 270 nm; (+ NaOAc-H₃BO₃) 339, 270 nm; IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3395 (OH), 1654, 1630 (C=O), 1580, 1490, 1439, 1367, 1252, 1150, 1025, 998, 824, 766 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) data, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively; FABMS *m/z* 565 [M - H]⁻; HRFABMS *m/z* 567.12852 [M + H]⁺ (calcd 567.12912 for C₃₂H₂₂O₁₀).

Acetylation of 2. Compound **2** was acetylated in the same manner as **1** to give the tetraacetate (**2a**): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.03, 2.18, 2.33, 2.42 (3H each, s, -OAc \times 4), 3.81 (3H, s, OMe-4'), 3.88, (3H, s, OMe-7'), 6.54 (1H, br s, H-3), 6.58 (1H, br s, H-6), 6.65 (1H, s, H-3''), 6.86 (1H, br s, H-8), 7.07 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, H-5'), 7.26 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-3'''), -5'''), 7.43 (1H, s, H-8'), 7.76 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, H-2'), 7.86 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, H-6'), 7.89 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-2''', -6'''); APCIMS *m/z* 735 [M + H]⁺, 693 (M⁺ - COCH₂ + H), 651 (M⁺ - COCH₂ \times 2 + H), 609 (M⁺ - COCH₂ \times 3 + H).

2'',3''-Dihydrorobustaflavone 7,4'-dimethyl ether (3): yellow granules (MeOH); mp 196-198 $^{\circ}$ C; [α]_D²⁵ -2.9 $^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.68, dioxane); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 335 (4.45), 293 (4.43), 269 (4.44), 239 (sh, 4.45) nm; (+ NaOMe) 330, 270, 242 nm; (+ AlCl₃) 384, 348, 292, 281 nm; (+ AlCl₃-HCl) 384, 346, 293, 282 nm; (+ NaOAc) 335, 292, 269 nm; (+ NaOAc-H₃BO₃) 336, 292, 270 nm; IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3395 (OH), 1654, 1630 (C=O), 1580, 1490, 1439, 1367, 1252, 1150, 1025, 998, 824, 766 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) data, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively; FABMS *m/z* 565 [M - H]⁻; HRFABMS *m/z* 567.12852 [M + H]⁺ (calcd 567.12912 for C₃₂H₂₂O₁₀).

Acetylation of 3. Compound **3** was acetylated in the same manner as **1** to give a tetraacetate (**3a**): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.97, 2.10, 2.31, 2.42 (3H each, s, -OAc \times 4), 2.77-3.07 (2H, m, H-3''), 3.81, 3.88 (3H each, s, -OMe \times 2), 5.53 (1H, m, H-2''), 6.52 (1H, H-3), 6.58 (1H, d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-6), 6.85 (1H, d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-8), 6.85 (1H, s, H-8''), 7.04 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-5'),

7.16 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-3''', -5'''), 7.47 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-2'', -6''), 7.71 (1H, d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, H-2'), 7.83 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 2.5$ Hz, H-6'); APCIMS m/z 737 [M + H]⁺, 695 (M⁺ - COCH₂ + H), 653 (M⁺ - COCH₂ × 2 + H), 611 (M⁺ - COCH₂ × 3 + H).

2'',3''-Dihydrorobusflavone 7,4',7'''-trimethyl ether (4): light yellow powder (MeOH); mp 243–244 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -2.3^\circ$ (c 0.44, dioxane); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 337 (4.39), 289 (4.46), 270 (4.46) nm; (+ NaOMe) 404, 322, 289, 269 nm; (+ AlCl₃) 383, 348, 297 (sh), 281 nm; (+ AlCl₃-HCl) 381, 345, 297 (sh), 282 nm; (+ NaOAc) 336, 288, 270 nm; (+ NaOAc-H₃BO₃) 337, 289, 270 nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3400 (OH), 1653, 1607, 1490, 1439, 1367, 1252, 1150, 1025, 998, 824, 766 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) data, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, FABMS m/z 581 [M - H]⁻; HRFABMS m/z 583.16374 [M + H]⁺ (calcd 583.16042 for C₃₃H₂₇O₁₀).

Acetylation of 4. Compound **4** was acetylated in the same manner as **1** to give a triacetate (**4a**): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.08, 2.32, 2.41 (3H each, s, -OAc × 3), 2.75–3.02 (2H, m, H-3''), 3.77, 3.82, 3.87 (3H each, s, -OMe × 3), 5.52 (1H, m, H-2''), 6.52 (2H, H-3, -8''), 6.58 (1H, d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, H-6), 6.85 (1H, d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, H-8), 6.97 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, H-5'), 7.03 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-3''', -5'''), 7.47 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-2'', -6''), 7.67 (1H, d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, H-2'), 7.82 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 2.5$ Hz, H-6'); APCIMS m/z 709 [M + H]⁺, 667 (M⁺ - COCH₂ + H), 625 (M⁺ - COCH₂ × 2 + H), 583 (M⁺ - COCH₂ × 2 + H).

Cell Lines. The K562, Raji, Vero, Calu-1, HeLa, and Wish cell lines were utilized as target cells in the cytotoxic assay. K562 and Raji cells are erythroleukemia and EBV-transformed B cell lines, respectively [American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) Rockville, MD]. They were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium (Hyclone, Logan, UT) containing 10% fetal calf serum (FCS, Gibco, Grand Island, NY), 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 μ g/mL streptomycin. The Vero cell is a green monkey kidney tumor cell line (ATCC, Rockville, MD). The Wish cell is a transformed epithelial cell line, and the Calu-1 cell is a human lung carcinoma cell line (ATCC, Rockville, MD). The HeLa cell is a human cervical carcinoma cell line (ATCC, Rockville, MD). The Vero, Wish, Calu-1, and HeLa cell lines were cultured in MEM containing 10% FCS, 100 μ g/mL streptomycin, and 100

U/mL penicillin. These cell lines were cultured at 37 °C in an atmosphere of humidified 5% CO₂.

The Growth Inhibition Assays. The method followed was described previously.¹⁶

Acknowledgment. We are grateful to the National Science Council, the Republic of China, for support of this research under Grant NSC 89-2113-M-077-002.

References and Notes

- Lee, S. W.; Chen, Z. T.; Chen, C. M. *Chin. Pharm. J.* **1992**, *44*, 537–541.
- Okigawa, M.; Hwa, C. W.; Kawano, N.; Rahman, W. *Phytochemistry* **1971**, *10*, 3286–3287.
- Qasim, M. A.; Roy, S. K.; Kamil, M.; Ilyas, M. *Indian J. Chem.* **1985**, *24B*, 220.
- Lin, R. C.; Skaltsounis, A. L.; Seguin, E.; Tillequin, F.; Koch, M. *Planta Med.* **1994**, *60*, 168–170.
- Silva, G. L.; Chai, H.; Gupta, M. P.; Farnsworth, N. R.; Cordell, G. A.; Pezzuto, J. M.; Beecher, C. W. W.; Kinghorn, A. D. *Phytochemistry* **1995**, *40*, 129–134.
- Sun, C. M.; Syu, W. J.; Huang, Y. T.; Chen, C. C.; Ou, J. C. *J. Nat. Prod.* **1997**, *60*, 382–384.
- Lee, I. S.; Nishikawa, A.; Furukawa, F.; Kasahara, K. I.; Kim, S. U. *Cancer Lett.* **1997**, *144*, 93–99.
- Jiangsu New Medical College. *Dictionary of Chinese Materia Medica*; Shanghai Scientific and Technological Publishers: Shanghai, **1988**.
- Lin, R. C.; Peyroux, J.; Seguin, E.; Koch, M. *Phytother. Res.* **1991**, *5*, 188–190.
- Tsai, J. L.; Shieh, W. C. In *Flora of Taiwan*, 2nd ed., Editorial Committee of the Flora of Taiwan: Taipei, 1994; Vol. I, pp 45–57.
- Voirin, B. *Phytochemistry* **1972**, *11*, 257–262.
- Chiu, P. L.; Patterson, G. W.; Salt, T. A. *Phytochemistry* **1988**, *27*, 819–822.
- Mabry, T. J.; Markham, K. R.; Thomas, M. B. *The Systematic Identification of Flavonoids*; Springer: New York, 1970.
- He, K.; Timmermann, B. N.; Aladesanmi, A. J.; Zeng, L. *Phytochemistry* **1996**, *42*, 1199–1201.
- Markham, K. R.; Sheppard, C.; Geiger, H. *Phytochemistry* **1987**, *26*, 3335–3337.
- Kuo, Y. C.; Lin, C. Y.; Tsai, W. J.; Wu, C. L.; Chen, C. F.; Hiao, M. S. *Cancer Investigation* **1994**, *12*, 611–615.
- Chari, V. M.; Ilyas, M.; Wagner, H.; Neszmelyi, A.; Chen, F. C.; Chen, L. K.; Lin, Y. C.; Lin, Y. M. *Phytochemistry* **1977**, *16*, 1273–1278.
- Lin, L. C.; Kuo, Y. C.; Chou, C. J. *J. Nat. Prod.* **1999**, *62*, 405–408.

NP990538M