## Chemical Constituents from Alseodaphne andersonii

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Five new compounds, including four  $C_{17} \gamma$ -lactones, dihydroisoobtusilactone (1), dihydroobtusilactone (2), 3-epilitsenolide  $D_2$  (3), and 3-epilitsenolide  $D_1$  (4), and one furanone alseodafuranone (5), were isolated from the root and stem of *Alseodaphne andersonii*. Their structures were elucidated mainly by spectral analysis (NMR and MS) and partially by chemical correlation.

Cumulative studies have revealed that Lauraceous plants, particularly those of the *Litsea, Neolitsea, Phoebe, Cryptocarya*, and *Dehaasia* genera, contain various types of isoquinoline alkaloids. Analysis of these alkaloidal compositions could serve as a basis for chemotaxonomy of these plants. Besides this, other components such as lactonic compounds<sup>2</sup> and flavonoid glycosides<sup>3</sup> were reported in certain Lauraceous species. To further clarify the application of chemotaxonomy in this family, a more thorough investigation on other genera is required, especially for those rarely studied ones, such as *Alseodaphne*. The following describes the outcome of our effort on the chemical study of *Alseodaphne andersonii* (King ex Hook. f.) Kosterm. (Lauraceae), a large tree indigenous to Yun-Nan Province, China.<sup>4</sup>

A preliminary study focusing on selective isolation of alkaloids by a general acid—base treatment of the ethanolic extract of the root and stem was performed, and it was found that this species contained very tiny amounts of alkaloids. Hence, a general liquid—liquid partitioning process was undertaken on the ethanolic extract, providing fractions soluble in hexane,  $CHCl_3$ , and  $MeOH-H_2O$  (1:1). Repeated chromatography on the hexane-soluble fraction yielded compound 1. Repeated chromatography on the  $CHCl_3$ -soluble fraction yielded compounds 2–7. Of these, compounds 2 and 6, possessing very similar polarity but distinct skeletons, were separated via a Sephadex LH-20 column.

Compound 1, a pale yellowish liquid, had molecular formula C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, as deduced from HRFABMS. It contained an  $\alpha,\beta'$ -conjugated  $\gamma$ -lactone moiety substituted with  $\gamma$ -exomethylene and  $\beta$ -hydroxy groups similar to isoobtusilactone<sup>5</sup> and isolancifolide,<sup>2</sup> as exemplified by the IR absorptions at 1769, 1672 cm<sup>-1</sup>, UV absorption maximum at 222.5 nm, <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals at  $\delta$  7.04 (dt, J = 2.1, 7.8 Hz, H-6), 4.90 (dd, J = 2.7, 1.3 Hz, H<sub>Z</sub>-5), 4.68 (dd, J =2.7, 1.7 Hz,  $H_E$ -5), and 5.21 (m, H-3), and  $^{13}$ C NMR signals at  $\delta$  166.89 (s, C-1), 127.29 (s, C-2), 150.15 (d, C-6), 157.67 (s, C-4), 91.29 (t, C-5), and 66.19 (d, C-3). However, it was found that 1 lacked a terminal vinyl group and its molecular formula had two more hydrogen atoms than that of isoobtusilactone. An NOED experiment enhanced  $H_E$ 5  $(\delta 4.68)$  (1.9%) and H-7 ( $\delta 2.42$ ) (3.3%) upon irradiation at H-3 signals, suggesting an *E*-configuration for  $\Delta^{2(6)}$ . These data and the optical property similar to isoobtusilactone, both levorotatory, indicated 1 to be 16,17-dihydroisoobtusilactone. An HMBC experiment was performed to assign most of its C-13 NMR signals (Table 2).

$$Z^{H}$$
 $S^{H}$ 
 $S^{H$ 

Compound **2**, a pale yellowish liquid, also had molecular formula  $C_{17}H_{28}O_3$ , as deduced from HRFABMS. Its spectral data (IR, UV,  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR) were also very similar to those of **1**. The large difference between them appeared for H-6,  $\delta$  6.64 (dt, J=2.0, 7.8 Hz) in **2** versus  $\delta$  7.04 in **1**, in their  $^1H$  NMR spectra, suggesting a Z-configuration for  $\Delta^{2(6)}$  in **2**. This proposal was confirmed by an NOED experiment which enhanced  $H_E$ -5 ( $\delta$  4.64) and H-6 ( $\delta$  6.64) upon irradiation at H-3 signals. Pooling these data and the optical property,  $[\alpha]^{26}D_-44.7^\circ$ , which established a 3S-configuration,  $^{5,6}$  together established **2** to be 16,17-dihydroobtusilactone. The  $^1H$  NMR and  $^{13}C$  NMR data of **2**, except for some in the aliphatic side chain, were assigned by comparison with those of **1** (Tables 1 and 2).

Compound **3**, a colorless amorphous solid, mp 34-35 °C, had molecular formula  $C_{17}H_{30}O_3$ , as deduced from HR-FABMS, two more hydrogen atoms than that in **1**. Its spectral data (IR, UV,  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR) also indicated an  $\alpha,\beta'$ -conjugated  $\gamma$ -lactone moiety having 3-hydroxy substitution, as exemplified by the IR absorption at 3487, 1732, 1678 cm $^{-1}$ , UV absorption maximum at 215 nm, and  $^1H$  NMR signals at  $\delta$  6.89 (dt, J=1.4, 7.8 Hz, H-6), 4.77 (br d, J=5.2 Hz, H-3). Its  $^1H$  NMR spectrum lacked the signals for a  $\gamma$ -methylene group; instead an additional methyl doublet ( $\delta$  1.42) and a double quartet signal for a

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**Table 1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR Data for Compounds 1-5 ( $\delta$ /ppm, J in Hz) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz)

position	1	2	3	4	<b>5</b> <sup>a</sup>	
3	5.21 m	5.08 dd (2.7, 3.4)	4.77 brd (5.2)	4.60 brd (5.4)		
4			4.50 dq (5.2, 6.6)	4.49 dq (5.4, 6.6)	2.63 dd (5.8, 18.4) (α) 2.05 dd (8.8, 18.4) (β)	
5	4.68 dd (1.3, 2.7) ( <i>E</i> ) 4.90 dd (1.7, 2.7) ( <i>Z</i> )	4.64 dd (1.7, 2.7) ( <i>E</i> ) 4.85 dd (1.7, 3.4) ( <i>Z</i> )	1.42 d (6.6)	1.35 d (6.6)	4.25 ddt (5.8, 8.8, 6.2)	
6	7.04 dt (2.1, 7.8)	6.66 dt (2.0, 7.8)	6.89 dt (1.4,7.8)	6.52 dt (1.2, 7.7)	1.34 s	
7	2.42 m	2.73 m	2.36 dt (7.8, 7.4)	2.69 m	1.70 m	
8	1.48 m	1.43 m	1.49 m	1.43 m	1.23 m	
9 - 15	1.25m	1.23 m	1.23 m	1.22 m	1.23 m	
16	1.25m	1.23 m	1.23 m	1.22 m	1.23 m	
17	0.86 t (6.8)	0.86 t (6.8)	0.86 t (6.9)	0.84 t (6.9)	0.86 t (6.8)	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>  $\delta_{2-{
m OMe}}$  3.24 (s).

Table 2.  $^{13}$ C NMR Data ( $\delta$ /ppm) $^{g}$  for 1–5 (100 MHz) and HMBC Data for 1 and 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz)

position	1		2	3		4	$5^c$
	$\delta_{\rm C}$ (mult) <sup>b</sup>	HMBC corr C#	$\overline{\delta_{\mathrm{C}} \text{ (mult)}}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$ (mult)	HMBC corr C#	$\delta_{\rm C}$ (mult)	$\delta_{\rm C}$ (mult)
1	166.9 s		165.2 s	170.2 s		168.9 s	
2	127.3 s		126.8 s	130.5 s		129.2 s	100.5 s
3	66.2 d	1, 2	68.8 d	67.7 d	1, 2, 4, 6	71.2 d	209.0 s
4	157.7 s		157.5 s	79.0 d	3, 5	78.0 d	40.1 t
5	91.3 t	3, 4	90.3 t	13.9 q	3, 4	14.1 q	73.5 d
6	150.2 d	1, 3, 7	151.3 d	147.7 đ	1, 2, 3, 7	149.6 d	14.1 q
7	$\sim$ 29.5 t	2, 6, 8, 9	$\sim$ 29.5 t	$\sim$ 29.5 t	2, 6, 8, 9	$\sim$ 29.5 t	35.3 t
8	28.3 t	6	28.3 t	28.4 t	7, 9, 10	27.8 t	$\sim$ 29.6 t
15	31.8 t		31.9 t	31.9 t		31.9 t	31.9 t
16	22.6 t	15, 17	22.6 t	22.6 t	15, 17	22.6 t	22.7 t
17	14.0 t	15, 16	14.0 t	14.1 t	15, 16	14.1 t	16.4 q

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> The chemical shifts for C-9 through C-14 are between  $\delta$  29.7 and 28.7. <sup>b</sup> Multiplicities were obtained from DEPT experiments. <sup>c</sup> In 5,  $\delta_{2-{\rm OMe}}$  48.8 (q).

carbinoyl proton ( $\delta$  4.50) were present. These data suggested 3 to be a 4,5-dihydro analogue of 1, possibly the C-3 isomer of litsenolide D2.7 An NOED experiment which enhanced H-4 (7.3%), H-7 (δ 2.36) (5.3%), and H-8 (δ 1.49) (1.5%) upon irradiation at H-3 suggested a cis relationship of 3-OH and 4-Me and an *E*-conformation for  $\Delta^{2(6)}$  for lack of significant NOE between H-3 and H-6.

To establish the absolute configuration at C-3 and C-4, **3** was catalytically hydrogenated, followed by *O*-acetylation and elimination of the acetoxy group to yield 2-dodecyl- $4\alpha$ -methyl-2-butenolide,  $[\alpha]^{26}$   $-37.3^{\circ}$  (c 1.0, dioxane) (lit. -29.8°),8 having spectral data identical to those reported.8 Since the C-4 stereochemistry of this product had been determined to be the R-configuration by further chemical degradation to the known methyl lactate,8 3 has a 3R,4Rconfiguration, different from 3S, 4R in litsenolide  $D_2$ . Therefore, compound 3 is a new compound and is named 3-epilitsenolide D<sub>2</sub>.

Compound 4 had molecular formula C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, as deduced from HRFABMS, the same as 3. Its spectral data (IR, UV, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR) were also very similar to those of 3. The large difference between them was the H-6 signal,  $\delta$  6.52 (dt, J = 1.2, 7.7 Hz) in **4** versus  $\delta$  6.89 in **3**, in their  $^{1}$ H NMR spectra, suggesting a Z conformation for  $\Delta^{2(6)}$  in **4**. The close CD curves, both having a large negative Cotton effect at 226 (3) and 222 nm (4), suggested the same 3R,4Rstereochemistry. Hence, 4 is a C-3 isomer of the known litsenolide D<sub>1</sub><sup>7</sup> and is a new compound named 3-epilitsenolide D<sub>1</sub>.

Compound 5 had molecular formula C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, as deduced from HREIMS. Its IR spectrum revealed a strong absorption at 1774 cm<sup>-1</sup>, suggesting a five-membered carbonyl function, confirmed by a carbon signal at  $\delta$  208.99 (s, C-3). The  $^{1}$ H NMR spectrum displayed a MeO ( $\delta$  3.26, 2-OMe), one methyl singlet ( $\delta$  1.34, 2-Me), and two geminal protons at  $\delta$  2.63 (dd, J = 18.4, 5.8 Hz) and 2.05 (dd, J =18.4 and 8.8 Hz), both of which coupled to a carbinoyl proton at  $\delta$  4.25 (ddt, J = 8.8, 5.8, 6.2 Hz, H-5), evidenced by a COSY-45 spectrum. This COSY spectrum also revealed the coupling of the latter proton ( $\delta$  4.25) to a methylene group at  $\delta_{\rm H}$  1.70 (2H, m, H-6), which was a part of a long aliphatic chain with the terminal methyl group at  $\delta$  0.86 (t, J = 6.8 Hz). Its  $^{13}$ C NMR data showed a ketal carbon at  $\delta$  100.53 (s, C-2) and a carbinoyl carbon at  $\delta$  73.53 (d, C-5). These data taken together would build up a 2-methoxy-2-methyl-5-alkyl-3(2H)-dihydrofuranone structure for 5. The aliphatic side chain would contain 11 carbons,  $-(CH_2)_{10}CH_3$ , as deduced by the subtraction of this furan moiety from the formula. This proposed skeleton was confirmed by analysis of an HMBC spectrum, which revealed the coupling of both methyl ( ${}^{2}J$ ) and methoxy ( ${}^{3}J$ ) singlets to the ketal carbon and the methyl singlet ( ${}^{3}J$ ) and  $\gamma$ -methylene protons' ( $^2J$ ) signals to the  $\beta$ -carbonyl signal. The relative stereochemistry at C-2 and C-5 was determined by two NOED experiments. That irradiation at the frequency of H-5 did not enhance the intensity of 2-Me and 2-OMe and irradiation at the methyl singlet only enhanced the 2-OMe signal (2.6%) would suggest the trans relationship between the 5-alkyl group and 2-OMe. Hence the structure of compound 5 was elucidated as (2,5-E)-2methoxy-2-methyl-5-undecyl-3(*H*)-dihyrofuranone. The absolute stereochemistry in 5, however, remains to be clarified. To our knowledge, 5 represents the first occurrence of such a compound, and it was named alseodafuranone.

Two additional compounds had molecular formula  $C_{10}H_{12}O_4$ , as deduced from EIMS and NMR spectral data. They contained a phenolic group H-bonded to an ester carbonyl group, as exemplified by IR absorption at 3405 and 1629 cm<sup>-1</sup>, a bathochromic shift in the UV spectrum under alkaline conditions, and a D<sub>2</sub>O exchangeable proton signal at  $\delta$  12.01 (s, 2-OH). These were identified as methyl  $\beta$ -orcinolcarboxylate<sup>9</sup> and ethyl orsellinate, <sup>9,10</sup> respectively, by comparison of their spectral data (1H NMR, UV, MS) to those reported. These two structures were further confirmed by NOED experiments. The complete  $^{13}$ C NMR assignment of  $\beta$ -orcinolcarboxylate was made by analysis of an HMBC spectrum as listed in the Experimental Section. The complete  $^{13}$ C NMR assignment of orsellinate listed in the Experimental Section was made by comparing to that of  $\beta$ -orcinolcarboxylate and correlation with that calculated from the substitution effect on the benzene ring.

This study resulted in the isolation and characterization of four new lactonic compounds (1–4) and one new furanone (5). Among these, similar lactonic type compounds had been isolated frequently from the *Clinostemon*,<sup>5</sup> *Lindera*,<sup>6,11</sup> and *Litsea*<sup>7</sup> genera. The above findings and the low alkaloid content in *Alseodaphne andersonii* could serve to differentiate the plants of this genus from those of the genera mentioned above.

## **Experimental Section**

General Experimental Procedures. A JASCO DIP-181 digital polarimeter; a Perkin-Elmer 1760-X infrared FT spectrometer (KBr); a Hitachi 2000 UV (MeOH); a JASCO J-710 spectropolarimeter (MeOH); a JEOL JMX-HX110 mass spectrometer; and a Bruker AMX-400 NMR spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_{\rm H}$  7.24,  $\delta_{\rm C}$  77.0) were used using Bruker's standard pulse programs: in the HMQC and HMBC experiments,  $\Delta=1$  s and J=140, 8 Hz, respectively, and the correlation maps consisted of  $512 \times 1 {\rm K}$  data points per spectrum, each composed of 32-64 transients.

**Plant Material.** The plant material, collected in July 1994 in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, Mainland China, was authenticated by Dr. Su-Lin Young and colleagues in the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China. A voucher specimen has been deposited in that Institute.

**Extraction and Isolation.** The dry powder of the stem (14.2 kg) was percolated with 95% EtOH (100 L  $\times$  3) to give the EtOH extract (1.05 kg) upon concentration under reduced pressure. A portion of the extract (500.0 g) was triturated with 80% MeOH<sub>aq</sub> (0.5 L  $\times$  3). The soluble fraction obtained by centrifugation was then partitioned against hexane (1 L  $\times$  3) to give the hexane-soluble fraction (28.2 g). The MeOH layer was then adjusted to 50% MeOH<sub>aq</sub> by adding H<sub>2</sub>O, and the resultant suspension was partitioned with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1 L  $\times$  3) to give a precipitate (35.5 g) and two fractions soluble in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (8.4 g) and 50% MeOH (34.1 g) upon evaporation.

The hexane-soluble fraction (20.2 g) was chromatographed on a silica gel (550 g, finer than 230 mesh) column, eluted with EtOAc (0-20%) in hexane to give three fractions. Fractions 1 and 3 were found to be lipids and fatty acids. Fraction 2 (1.06 g) obtained from 10% EtOAc elution was rechromatographed on a silica gel (40 g, 230-400 mesh) column, eluted with MeCN (1-3%) in hexane to give 1 (131 mg). The CHCl<sub>3</sub>-soluble fraction (7.3 g) was chromatographed on a silica gel (290 g, 230-400 mesh) column, eluted with MeOH (0-30%) in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, to give eight fractions. Fractions 1 and 3 were found to be lipids and fatty acids. Fraction 2 (326 mg) obtained from CHCl<sub>3</sub> elution was rechromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column [200 mL, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH (7: 3)] to give compounds **2** (255 mg) and  $\beta$ -orcinolcarboxylate (3.2 mg). Fraction 4 (194 mg), obtained from 0.5% MeOH elution, was rechromatographed on a silica gel (10 g, 230-400 mesh) column eluted with EtOAc (0-8%) in hexane to give compound 4 (91 mg). Fraction 6 (137 mg) was rechromatographed on a silica gel (10 g, 230-400 mesh) column eluted with EtOAc (0-10%) in hexane to give compounds **5** (5.3 mg), orsellinate (6.2 mg), and **3** (79.6 mg).

**16,17-Dihydroisoobtusilactone** (1): colorless liquid;  $R_f$  0.20 [ ${}^{4}$ PrOH ${}^{-}$ hexane (1:19)];  $[\alpha]^{26}_{D} - 36.8^{\circ}$  (c 0.57, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR  $\nu_{\rm max}$  3435 (br, OH), 2925, 2854, 1768 (s,  $\gamma$ -lactone), 1671, 1466, 1272, 1023 cm $^{-1}$ ; UV  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  (MeCN,  $\log \epsilon$ ) 222.5 (4.12) nm; CD (3.57 ×  $10^{-5}$  M, MeCN) ( $\Delta \epsilon$ ) 270 (-1.49), 226 (-5.46);  ${}^{1}$ H and  ${}^{13}$ C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H] ${}^{+}$  281 (44), [M + H  ${}^{-}$  H ${}^{2}$ O] ${}^{+}$  263 (24), 55 (74), 43 (100); HRFABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H] ${}^{+}$  281.2127 (calcd for  $C_{17}H_{29}O_{3}$  281.2117).

**16,17-Dihydroobtusilactone (2):** colorless liquid;  $R_f$  0.37 [/PrOH-hexane (1:9)];  $[\alpha]^{26}_{\rm D}$  -44.7° (c 0.76, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR  $\nu_{\rm max}$  3435 (br, OH), 2923, 2853, 1766 (s,  $\gamma$ -lactone), 1678, 1463, 1367, 1090, 965, 855, 813, 723 cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  (MeCN, log  $\epsilon$ ) 225 (4.07) nm; CD (3.57 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M, MeCN) ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 273 (-1.88), 227 (-3.54); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 281 (17), [M + H - H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> 263 (7), 139 (15), 69 (38), 55 (75), 43 (100); HRFABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 281.2122 (calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>29</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 281.2117).

**3-Epilitsenolide D<sub>2</sub> (3):** amorphous solid, mp 34 °C;  $R_f$ 0.17 [EtOAc-hexane (1:4)];  $[\alpha]^{26}_D$  -69.8° (c 1.29, dioxane); IR  $\nu_{\rm max}$  3387 (br, OH), 2924, 2848, 1729 (s,  $\gamma$ -lactone), 1693, 1672, 1460, 1219, 1038, 993, 919, 734 cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  (MeCN, log  $\epsilon$ ) 215 (4.27) nm; CD (3.75 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M, MeCN) ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 266 (+0.61), 226 (-9.74); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 283 (100), 265 (19, [M + H - H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>), 214 (15), 57 (50); HRFABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 283.2267 (calcd for  $C_{17}H_{31}O_3$  283.2273).

**3-Epilitsenolide D<sub>1</sub> (4):** amorphous solid, mp 50 °C;  $R_f$ 0.42 [MeOH–CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3:97)];  $[\alpha]^{26}_{\rm D}$  –34.7° (c 1.04, dioxane); IR  $\nu_{\rm max}$  3486 (br, OH), 2919, 2849, 1732 (s,  $\gamma$ -lactone), 1677, 1470, 1377, 1214, 1038, 997, 929, 674 cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  (MeCN, log  $\epsilon$ ) 217.5 (4.02) nm; CD (3.57 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M, MeCN) ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 222 (–3.61); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 283 (100), [M + H – H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> 265 (15); HRFABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 283.2275 (calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 283.2273).

**Alseodafuranone (5):**  $R_f$ 0.42 [EtOAc-hexane (1:4)]; [α]<sup>26</sup><sub>D</sub> -21.4° (c 0.14, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR  $\nu_{\rm max}$  2925, 2854, 1774 (s, C=O), 1463, 1101 cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  (MeCN, log  $\epsilon$ ) 240 (3.02) nm; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; HMBC (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) data: 1-OMe to C-1, H-3 to C-2, C-4, and C-6, H-5 to C-1 and C-2, H-15 to C-16, H-16 to C-14 and C-15; EIMS m/z [M]<sup>+</sup> 284 (5), 253 (20, [M – MeO]<sup>+</sup>), 209 (18, M – C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), 182 (28, [M – C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), 97 (34), 75 (100), 43 (72); HREIMS m/z [M]<sup>+</sup> 284.2345 (calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 284.2351).

Preparation of 2-Dodecyl-4α-methyl-2-butenolide. Compound 3 (30.7 mg) dissolved in EtOH (3.5 mL) was hydrogenated (H<sub>2</sub>, 1atm) over 10% Pd-C (20 mg) at room temperature overnight. After general workup, the reaction mixture was purified on a Si gel column eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> to give the 2,6dihydro product **3a** (16.2 mg):  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.45 (1H, dq, J = 3.0, 6.4 Hz, H-4), 4.29 (1H, br s), 2.55 (1H, m, H-2), 1.41 (3H, d, J = 6.4 Hz), 0.85 (3H, t, J = 7.2 Hz, H-17). **3a** (16 mg) was O-acetylated (Ac2O-py, each 1 mL) overnight, and the essentially pure acetylated product 3b (15 mg) was obtained via evaporation of the reaction mixture under vacuum. **3b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (ĈDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.57 (1H, dd, J = 3.4, 5.1 Hz), 4.54 (1H, dq, J = 3.4, 6.5 Hz, H-4), 2.68 (1H, m, H-2), 2.11 (3H, s, H-4)OAc),  $\hat{1}$ .29 (3H, d, J = 6.5 Hz),  $\hat{0}$ .85 (3H, t, J = 6.7 Hz,  $\hat{H}$ -17). 3b was then passed through an aluminum oxide column (basic, 7.66 g) eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> to give 2-dodecyl-4α-methyl-2butenolide (6.7 mg), a colorless viscous liquid:  $[\alpha]^{26}D - 37.3^{\circ}$ (c 1.0, dioxane) [lit.  $-29.8^{\circ}$  (c 0.541)]; H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.96 (1H, br s, H-3), 4.97 (1H, br q, J = 6.8 Hz, H-4), 2.24 (2H, t, J= 7.0 Hz, H-6), 1.38 (3H, d,  $\hat{J}$  = 6.8 Hz, H-5), 0.85 (3H, t, J = 6.4 Hz, H-17); FABMS (pos.) m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 267 (100).

Additional data for methyl α-orcinolcarboxylate:  $R_f$  0.36 [PrOH—hexane (1:9)];  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.47 (s, C-7), 162.92 (s, C-2), 158.01 (s, C-4), 140.12 (s, C-6), 110.44 (d, C-5), 108.41 (s, C-3), 105.18 (s, C-1), 51.75 (q, 7-OMe), 24.06 (q, 6-Me), 7.61 (q, 3-Me); HMBC (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + D<sub>2</sub>O) H-5 to C-1, C-3, and 6-Me, 7-OC $H_3$  to C-7, 3-C $H_3$  ( $\delta$  2.08) to C-2, C-3, and C-4, 6-C $H_3$  to C-1, C-5, and C-6.

Additional data for ethyl or sellinate:  $R_f$  0.26 [EtOAchexane (1:4)];  $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.67 (s, C-7), 165.36 (s, C-4), 160.16 (s, C-2), 144.02 (s, C-6), 111.27 (s, C-1), 108.80 (d, C-5), 101.28 (d, C-3), 61.28 (t, 7-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.32 (q, 6-Me), 14.22 (q, 7-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).

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## **References and Notes**

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