

## Rearranged Prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> Compounds and a Highly Oxygenated *seco*-Prezizaane-Type Sesquiterpene from the Stem Bark of *Illicium oligandrum*

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Received March 14, 2009

Three new rearranged prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds, named illioliganones A, B, and C (**1–3**), and a new highly oxygenated *seco*-prezizaane-type sesquiterpene, oligandriortholactone (**7**), together with three known prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds (**4–6**) and a known sesquiterpene lactone (**8**), have been isolated from the stem bark of *Illicium oligandrum*. The structures of **1–3** and **7** were elucidated by spectroscopic methods including 1D and 2D NMR, HRMS, and CD experiments. The absolute configuration of the 11,12-diol moiety in **2** and **3** was determined on the basis of observing the induced circular dichroism after addition of Mo<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub> in DMSO solution. The anti-inflammatory and cytotoxic activities of **1–8** were evaluated.

The genus *Illicium* is a rich source of prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds, neolignans, and sesquiterpene lactones.<sup>1</sup> Prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds, also named phytoquinoids, are considered to be characteristic constituents, some of which are found to increase choline acetyltransferase activity.<sup>2</sup> From a chemical point of view, this type of compound contains C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> and isoprene (C<sub>5</sub>). *Illicium oligandrum* is a toxic shrub of this genus, mainly distributed in Southern China and used in folk medicine for treating rheumatoid arthritis. In the previous paper, a new sesquiterpene lactone and three new neolignan glycosides with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities were isolated from the fruits of the plant.<sup>3</sup> As part of our continuing search for novel bioactive constituents, the ethanol extract from the stem bark of *I. oligandrum* was investigated. As a result, three new rearranged prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds, illioliganones A (**1**), B (**2**), and C (**3**), together with three known prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds, 2,3-dehydroillifunone (**4**), illifunone C (**5**), and illifunone D (**6**), a new highly oxygenated *seco*-prezizaane-type sesquiterpene, named oligandriortholactone (**7**), and a known sesquiterpene, neomajucin (**8**), were isolated from the CHCl<sub>3</sub>-soluble fraction of the ethanol extract. In this paper, we report the isolation and structure elucidation of new compounds and the determination of the absolute configurations of the *seclert* *vic*-diol moieties in **2** and **3** by using the in situ dimolybdenum CD method (Snatzke's method). The preliminary evaluation of anti-inflammatory activities and cytotoxicities of compounds **1–8** is also reported.

### Results and Discussion

The CHCl<sub>3</sub> fraction of the ethanolic extract was subjected to column chromatography on Si gel, Sephadex LH-20, ODS, and HPLC to afford three new rearranged prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds (**1–3**) and a new highly oxygenated *seco*-prezizaane-type sesquiterpene (**7**), along with the known 2,3-dehydroillifunone (**4**),<sup>4</sup> illifunone C (**5**),<sup>2a</sup> illifunone D (**6**),<sup>2a</sup> and neomajucin (**8**),<sup>5</sup> by comparing with corresponding literature data.

Compound **1** was isolated as a colorless oil with the molecular formula C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub> established by positive HRESIMS (*m/z* = 273.1100 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for 273.1097). Its IR spectrum revealed the presence of hydroxy (3448 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and two carbonyl groups,

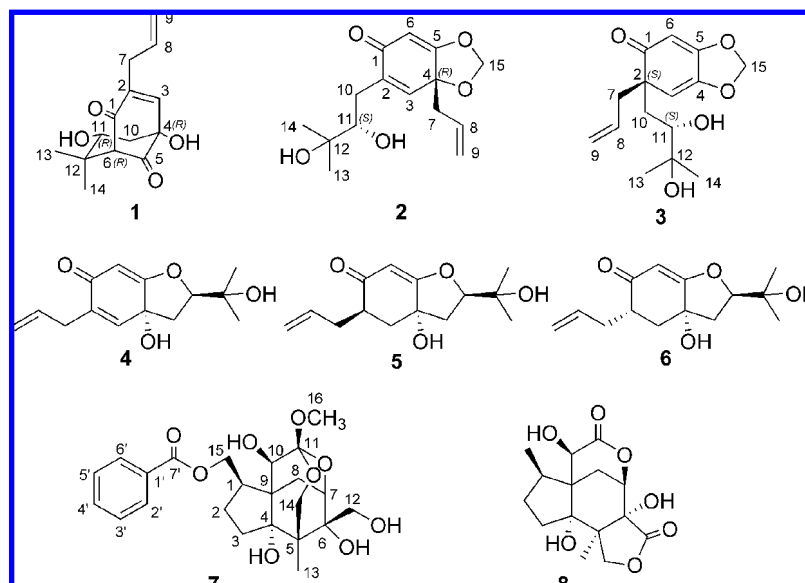
including a saturated ketone (1744 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and an α,β-conjugated ketone moiety (1672 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** showed resonances due to the β-H of an α,β-conjugated ketone moiety at δ<sub>H</sub> 6.80 (1 H, s, H-3), two hydroxy group protons at δ<sub>H</sub> 5.01 (1H, s, HO-4) and 4.14 (1 H, d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, HO-11), which could be exchanged by D<sub>2</sub>O, an isolated methine proton at δ<sub>H</sub> 3.04 (1 H, s, H-6), and two methyl groups at δ<sub>H</sub> 1.02 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>-13) and 0.91 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>-14). The presence of *gem*-dimethyl (CH<sub>3</sub>-13, -14) groups linked to a quaternary carbon at δ<sub>C</sub> 44.3 (C-12) was determined by HMBC experiments. In addition, the NMR data also indicated the presence of an allyl group [δ<sub>H</sub> 2.97 (2 H, m, H-7), 5.83 (1 H, m, H-8), 5.03 (1 H, d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, H-9a), 5.11 (1 H, d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, H-9b); δ<sub>C</sub> 33.2 (C-7), 135.5 (C-8), 117.5 (C-9)] and a unit comprising CH<sub>2</sub>(10)–CH(11)–OH [δ 1.94 (1 H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 12.4 Hz, H-10α), 2.23 (1 H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 5.2 Hz, H-10β), 3.56 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 11.2, 5.6, 5.2 Hz, H-11); δ 42.2 (C-10), 71.2 (C-11)], which were verified by <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HMQC, and HMBC experiments. In the HMBC experiment, the long-range correlations from H-11 to C-12, C-6, and C-4, from H-6 to C-11, C-12, C-5, and C-4, and from H<sub>2</sub>-10 to C-4 and C-5 confirmed that **1** possesses a cyclohexanone ring. HMBC correlations from H-6 to the α,β-conjugated carbonyl (δ<sub>C</sub> 195.4, C-1) and C-2 (δ<sub>C</sub> 140.1) and from the β-H (H-3) of the α,β-conjugated ketone moiety to the saturated carbonyl (δ<sub>C</sub> 204.4, C-5), C-4 (δ<sub>C</sub> 77.7), and C-10 (δ<sub>C</sub> 42.2) indicated unambiguously that the carbonyl and β-carbon of the α,β-conjugated ketone unit were connected with the cyclohexanone ring at C-6 and C-4, respectively. HMBC correlations between H-8 and C-2 and between H-3 and C-7 established that the allyl group was attached to C-2 of the α,β-conjugated ketone unit. On the basis of the above spectroscopic analysis, the gross structure of **1** was established as shown in Figure 1.

The absolute configuration of **1** was established from its CD Cotton effects. Compound **1** showed a negative Cotton effect at 336 nm for the n → π\* excitation, a negative Cotton effect at 261 nm, and a positive Cotton effect at 231 nm for the π → π\* excitation of the α,β-conjugated ketone chromophore, which were similar to those of denudadiene A<sup>6</sup> and contrary to those of liliflodione.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, the absolute configurations for C-4 and C-6 were determined to be both *R*. In addition, the double doublet signal at δ<sub>H</sub> 3.56 for H-11 in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with a large and a small coupling constant (*J* = 11.2, 5.2 Hz) indicated the β-orientation of H-11; thus, the absolute configuration for C-11 was also *R*. Accordingly, the structure of illioliganone A (**1**) was elucidated as shown in Figure 1.

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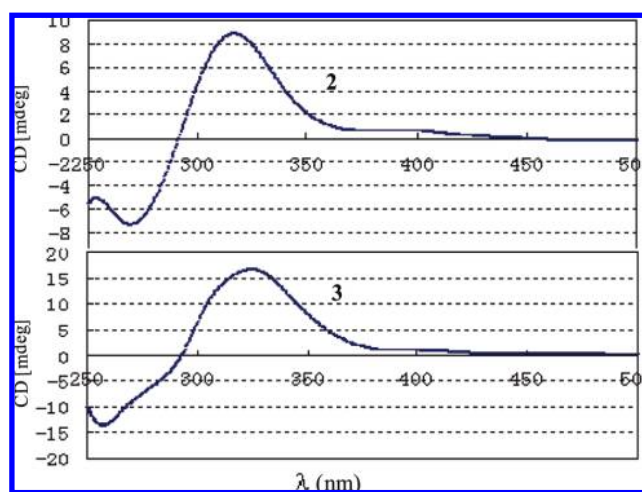
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**Figure 1.** Structures of compounds 1–8.

Compound **2** was obtained as a colorless oil. Its molecular formula of  $C_{15}H_{20}O_5$  was determined by HRESIMS ( $m/z = 281.1388 [M + H]^+$ , calcd for 281.1383). Its IR spectra displayed absorption bands attributable to a hydroxy group ( $3422\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and a dienone moiety ( $1675, 1615\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The presence of the dienone group in **2** was also indicated by the UV absorption maxima at 245 and 295 nm. The NMR data of **2** revealed two singlets at  $\delta_H$  5.41 and 6.89 due to the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta'$ -protons (H-6 and H-3) of the dienone moiety, two exchangeable hydroxy protons at  $\delta_H$  3.53 (1 H, d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, HO-11) and 3.38 (1 H, s, HO-12), an allylic group [ $\delta_H$  5.79 (1 H, m, H-8), 5.14 (1 H, dd,  $J = 17.0, 2.0$  Hz, H-9a), 5.10 (1 H, dd,  $J = 10.0, 2.0$  Hz, H-9b), 2.73 (1 H, dd,  $J = 13.5, 7.5$  Hz, H-7a), 2.49 (1 H, dd,  $J = 13.5, 7.5$  Hz, H-7b)], a methylenedioxy group [ $\delta_H$  5.70, 5.72 (each 1 H, s, H<sub>2</sub>-15)];  $\delta_C$  98.8 (C-15), and a dimethylcarbinol group [ $\delta_H$  1.17 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>-13), 1.16 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>-14);  $\delta_C$  25.9 (C-13), 25.3 (C-14), 72.8 (C-12)]. The  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR data also showed the presence of a CH<sub>2</sub>(10)–CH(11)–OH unit [ $\delta_H$  2.72 (1 H, d,  $J = 14.0$  Hz, H-10a), 2.10 (1 H, dd,  $J = 14.0, 10.0$  Hz, H-10b), 3.46 (1 H, br d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, H-11);  $\delta_C$  32.8 (C-10), 77.5 (C-11)], which was confirmed by HMQC and HMBC experiments. Both the methyl signals (CH<sub>3</sub>-13 and CH<sub>3</sub>-14) showed three-bond correlations with C-11 in the HMBC spectrum; therefore, the dimethylcarbinol group was bonded to C-11 and gave rise to a 2,3-dihydroxy-3-methylbutyl group as a C<sub>5</sub> unit. The above spectroscopic data of **2** exhibited the typical feature of prenylated C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>3</sub> compounds isolated from some species of the genus *Illicium* and were similar to those of illicinone C except for the data of the C<sub>5</sub> unit.<sup>2a</sup> Moreover, in the HMBC spectrum, long-range correlations of H<sub>2</sub>-10/C-1 (C=O), H<sub>2</sub>-10/C-2, H<sub>2</sub>-10/C-3, and H-11/C-2 indicated that the 2,3-dihydroxy-3-methylbutyl group was linked to C-2. The attachment between the allyl group and C-4 was unequivocally verified by the long-range correlations between H<sub>2</sub>-7 and C-3, C-4, and C-5. Thus, the locations of the allyl and the 2,3-dihydroxy-3-methylbutyl groups were contrary to those in illicinone C.<sup>2a</sup> The absolute configuration of C-4 was determined to be *R* on the basis of the CD positive Cotton effect at 280 nm resulting from the  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  excitation of the  $\alpha, \beta$ -conjugated ketone chromophore, which was contrary to that of illicinone G.<sup>4</sup>

The absolute configuration of the 11,12-diol moiety was determined by the in situ dimolybdenum CD method, developed by Snatzke and Frelek.<sup>8–12</sup> This practical, versatile, and reliable method involves the in situ formation of a metal complex of chiral *vic*-diol (cyclic and acyclic 1,2-diols) with the achiral dimolybdenum tetracetate [ $Mo_2(OAc)_4$ ] acting as an auxiliary chromophore.



**Figure 2.** Circular dichroism spectra of **2** and **3** in DMSO solution of dimolybdenum tetracetate (the inherent CD spectra of **2** and **3** were subtracted).

The observed sign of the Cotton effects in the induced CD spectra depends solely on the chirality of the 1,2-diol moiety expressed by the sign of the O–C–C–O torsion angle. Thus, the absolute configuration of a *vic*-diol can be determined by means of the empirical helicity rule relating the Cotton effect sign of the diagnostic band at 310 nm with the helicity of the O–C–C–O subunit. As mentioned, compound **2** has an inherent CD resulting from the conjugated ketone chromophore. To avoid overlap of the inherent Cotton effects above 250 nm with those generated after addition of  $Mo_2(OAc)_4$ , the inherent CD contribution was subtracted to give the induced CD of the metal complex. Thus, the positive Cotton effect at 310 nm observed in the induced CD spectrum, as shown in Figure 2, permitted assignment of the *S*-configuration to C-11 on the basis of the empirical rule proposed by Snatzke. Therefore, the structure of illioliganone B (**2**) was elucidated as shown in Figure 1.

Compound **3** was obtained as a colorless oil. Its molecular formula,  $C_{15}H_{20}O_5$ , was determined by HRESIMS ( $m/z = 281.1385 [M + H]^+$ , calcd for 281.1383). Its IR spectrum displayed absorption bands attributable to a hydroxy ( $3391\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and a conjugated ketone ( $1650, 1612\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) group. As in compound **2**, two singlets at  $\delta$  5.54 (H-3) and 5.46 (H-6) for two olefinic protons,

**Table 1.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Data of Compounds **1**, **2**, and **3** in Acetone- $d_6^a$ 

position	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>	
	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J in Hz)	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J in Hz)	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J in Hz)
1	195.4 s		187.8 s		202.1 s	
2	140.1 s		139.4 s		52.3 s	
3	149.4 d	6.80, s	136.9 d	6.89, s	108.3 d	5.54, s
4	77.7 s		81.8 s		145.1 s	
5	204.4 s		174.5 s		163.8 s	
6	73.7 d	3.04, s	98.3 d	5.41, s	99.6 d	5.46, s
7	33.2 t	2.97, m	40.6 t	2.73, dd (13.5, 7.5) 2.49, dd (13.5, 7.5)	46.9 t	2.48, dd (13.2, 7.2) 2.24, dd (13.2, 7.2)
8	135.5 d	5.83, m	131.9 d	5.79, m	134.2 d	5.57, m
9	117.5 t	5.03, d (10.4) 5.11, d (17.2)	120.5 t	5.14, dd (17.0, 2.0) 5.10, dd (10.0, 2.0)	117.9 t	4.96, dd (16.8, 2.0) 4.91, dd (10.0, 2.0)
10	42.2 t	H $\alpha$ 1.94, dd (12.4, 12.4) H $\beta$ 2.23, dd (12.4, 5.2)	32.8 t	2.72, d (14.0) 2.10, dd (14.0, 10.0)	43.3 t	2.10, d (13.6) 1.82, dd (13.6, 2.0)
11	71.2 d	3.56, ddd (11.2, 5.6, 5.2)	77.5 d	3.46, br. d (10.0)	76.3 d	3.33, m
12	44.3 s		72.8 s		72.6 s	
13	25.1 q	1.02, s	25.9 q	1.17, s	25.7 q	1.07, s
14	19.1 q	0.91, s	25.3 q	1.16, s	25.4 q	1.07, s
15			98.8 t	5.72, s; 5.70, s	102.3 t	5.89, s; 5.88, s
4-OH		5.01, s				
11-OH		4.14, d (5.6)		3.53, d (5.0)		3.05, d (6.0)
12-OH				3.38, s		3.27, s

<sup>a</sup> NMR data ( $\delta$ ) were measured at 400 MHz for proton and 100 MHz for carbon. The assignments were based on HMQC and HMBC experiments.

two exchangeable OH signals at  $\delta$  3.05 (1 H, d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, HO-11) and 3.27 (1 H, s, HO-12), and signals corresponding to an allyl group, a methylenedioxy group, and a 2,3-dihydroxy-3-methylbutyl group were evident in the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (Table 1) of **3**. This suggested that **3** possessed the same functional groups as **2** except for the C<sub>6</sub> unit of cyclohexadienone moiety. HMBC correlations from H-3 to C-1 (C=O), C-2, C-4, and C-5, from H-6 to C-1 (C=O), C-4, and C-5, and from H<sub>2</sub>-15 to C-4 and C-5 indicated the presence of a cyclohexa-2,4-dienone ring (the C<sub>6</sub> unit), fused with the methylenedioxy group at C-4 and C-5 in **3**. In addition, both H<sub>2</sub>-7 and H<sub>2</sub>-10 exhibited three-bond correlations with the conjugated carbonyl (C-1) and C-3 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  108.3) in the HMBC experiments, suggesting that the allyl and the 2,3-dihydroxy-3-methylbutyl groups were all attached to C-2 of the cyclohexadienone ring. The absolute *S*-configuration for C-2 of **3** was established by the CD data, showing the same negative Cotton effect at 325 nm resulting from the  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  excitation of the cyclohexadienone ring as that at 328 nm of (–)-usnic acid.<sup>13</sup> The *S*-configuration for C-11 in **3** was determined by the dimolybdenum CD method as for **2**. Thus, the structure of illioliganone C (**3**) was elucidated as shown in Figure 1.

Compound **7** was isolated as a white powder. Its molecular formula, C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>9</sub>, was established by HRESIMS ( $m/z$  473.1772 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>), and the IR spectrum revealed the presence of hydroxy (3408 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and ester carbonyl (1709 cm<sup>-1</sup>) groups. A benzoyl and an O-methyl group were observed in the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (Table 2). Except for these groups, another 15 carbon signals were resolved in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum and categorized by DEPT experiments as one tertiary methyl ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  15.8, CH<sub>3</sub>-13), three methylene (CH<sub>2</sub>-2, CH<sub>2</sub>-3, CH<sub>2</sub>-8), three oxygenated methylene (CH<sub>2</sub>-12, CH<sub>2</sub>-14, CH<sub>2</sub>-15), three methine including two oxygenated methine (CH-1, O-CH-7, and O-CH-10), and five quaternary carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  89.2 (C-4), 47.3 (C-5), 79.1 (C-6), 49.8 (C-9), and 113.2 (C-11). Among these 15 carbon signals, no carbonyl signals were evident; C-11 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  113.2) could only be an sp<sup>3</sup> carbon substituted by three oxygen atoms, thus constituting an orthocarboxylic acid diester (ortholactone) group. In the  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum, correlations from H<sub>2</sub>-15–H<sub>2</sub>-2 to H<sub>2</sub>-3 and from H-7 to H<sub>2</sub>-8 indicated unambiguously the presence of CH<sub>2</sub>(15)–CH(1)–CH<sub>2</sub>(2)–CH<sub>2</sub>(3) and CH<sub>2</sub>(8)–CH(7) units. The above feature suggested that **7** belonged to the cycloparvifloralone subtype of *seco*-prezizaane-type sesquiterpenes.<sup>14</sup> Comparison of the NMR data of **7** with those of (11)7,14-ortholactone-3 $\alpha$ -hydroxyfloridanolide, a similar compound isolated from *Illicium merrillianum*,<sup>15</sup>

**Table 2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Data of Compound **7** in Acetone- $d_6^a$ 

position	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J in Hz)
1	44.6 d	2.69, m
2	26.3 t	H $\alpha$ 1.53, m H $\beta$ 1.97, m
3	31.6 t	H $\alpha$ 2.38, m H $\beta$ 1.53, m
4	89.2 s	
5	47.3 s	
6	79.1 s	
7	72.7 d	3.91, d (2.8)
8	32.6 t	H $\alpha$ 1.90, dd (13.6, 2.8) H $\beta$ 2.41, dd (13.6, 2.8)
9	49.8 s	
10	75.6 d	3.93, s
11	113.2 s	
12	73.2 t	3.60, d (9.2); 3.95, d (9.2)
13	15.8 q	1.09, s
14	67.1 t	4.17, d (12.5); 3.31, d (12.5)
15	66.7 t	4.52, d (7.2)
OCH <sub>3</sub>	59.4 q	3.33, s
4-OH		5.05, s
6-OH		4.87, s
1'	131.4 s	
2', 6'	130.1 d	8.03, d (7.6)
3', 5'	129.4 d	7.51, dd (7.6, 7.6)
4'	133.7 d	7.62, dd (7.6, 7.6)
7'	166.7 d	

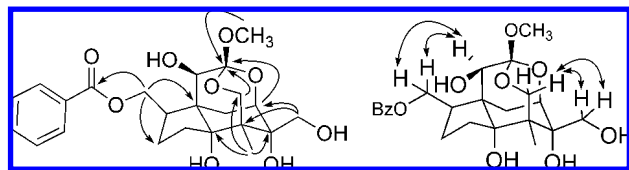
<sup>a</sup> NMR data ( $\delta$ ) were measured at 400 MHz for proton and 100 MHz for carbon. The assignments were based on HMQC and HMBC experiments.

indicated that C-12 and C-15 in **7** were both oxygenated methylene carbons. In the HMBC spectrum, the correlation between H<sub>2</sub>-15 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.52, d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz) and C-7' (ester carbonyl,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  166.7) indicated the benzoyloxy group was connected to C-15 by an ester bond. The only methoxy group was attached to C-11 on the basis of the HMBC correlation between H<sub>3</sub>-16 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.33, s) and C-11 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  113.2) (Figure 3).

In addition, the relative configuration of **7** was deduced from the NOESY experiment (Figure 3). CH<sub>2</sub>-12, CH<sub>2</sub>-15, and HO-10 were all  $\beta$ -oriented, which were confirmed by the cross-peaks from H<sub>2</sub>-12 to H-14b, from H<sub>2</sub>-15 to H-10 $\alpha$ , and from H-8 $\beta$  to H-10 $\alpha$ . According to the above analysis, the structure of oligandriortholactone (**7**) was elucidated as shown in Figure 1.

The anti-inflammatory and cytotoxic activities of compounds **1–8** were evaluated. The anti-inflammatory activities of compounds





**Figure 3.** Key HMBC and NOESY correlations of **7**.

**1–8** were assessed by measuring the inhibitory ratios of  $\beta$ -glucuronidase<sup>7</sup> release in rat polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs) induced by the platelet-activating factor (PAF) in vitro,<sup>16</sup> and the inhibitory ratios were  $-7.7$ ,  $33.8$ ,  $20.1$ ,  $4.8$ ,  $-9.4$ ,  $18.0$ ,  $15.8$ , and  $22.4\%$  at a concentration of  $10 \mu\text{M}$ . Ginkgolide B was used as a positive control, with an inhibitory ratio of  $80.5\%$  at  $10 \mu\text{M}$ . These suggested that compounds **2**, **3**, and **6–8** showed weak inhibitory activities of  $\beta$ -glucuronidase release from rat PMNs induced by PAF. In addition, all tested compounds were not cytotoxic to HCT-8, Bel-7402, BGC-823, A549, and A2780 human tumoral cell lines.

### Experimental Section

**General Experimental Procedures.** Melting point was determined on an XT-4 micro melting point apparatus (uncorrected). Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 341 digital polarimeter at  $589 \text{ nm}$ . UV spectra were recorded on a Hitachi UV-240 spectrophotometer. CD spectra were measured on a JASCO J-810 spectropolarimeter with a  $0.1 \text{ cm}$  cell at room temperature at the following conditions: speed  $200 \text{ nm/min}$ , time constant  $1 \text{ s}$ , bandwidth  $2.0 \text{ nm}$ . IR spectra were recorded as KBr disks on a Nicolet Impact 410 FT-IR spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were obtained on Inova 400 MHz spectrometers. ESIMS were measured on an Agilent 1100 Series LC/MSD trap mass spectrometer. HRESIMS were measured on a Bruker FTMS APEXIII 7.0T mass spectrometer. Column chromatography was performed on Si gel ( $200\text{--}300 \text{ mesh}$ , Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory, China), ODS ( $40\text{--}70 \mu\text{m}$ , Merck), and Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech AB, Sweden). HPLC was carried out on a Shimadzu LC-6AD with an SPD-10A detector. A reversed-phase C18 column (YMC Pack ODS-A  $20 \times 250 \text{ mm}$ ,  $10 \mu\text{m}$ ) was employed. TLC was carried out with glass precoated Si gel GF<sub>254</sub> plates (Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory, China). Spots were visualized under UV light or by spraying with  $10\% \text{ H}_2\text{SO}_4$  in  $95\% \text{ EtOH}$  followed by heating.

**Plant Material.** The stem bark of *Illicium oligandrum* was collected from Guangxi Province, China, in September 2004, and identified by Prof. Song-ji Wei of Guang Xi Traditional Medical College. A voucher specimen (No. 04086) is deposited in the herbarium of the Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College.

**Extraction and Isolation.** The stem bark of *I. oligandrum* ( $3.0 \text{ kg}$ ) was air-dried, ground, and extracted three times ( $2 \text{ h}$  for each time) with  $95\% \text{ EtOH}$  ( $30 \text{ L}$ ) under reflux conditions ( $90\text{--}95 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ). The EtOH extract was evaporated to almost dryness in vacuo, and the resulting mixture ( $540 \text{ g}$ ) was suspended in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and partitioned successively with petroleum ether ( $3.0 \text{ L}$ ),  $\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $5.0 \text{ L}$ ), EtOAc ( $5.0 \text{ L}$ ), and  $n\text{-BuOH}$  ( $5.0 \text{ L}$ ). The  $\text{CHCl}_3$  part ( $70 \text{ g}$ ) was subjected to Si gel column chromatography, eluted with petroleum ether/ $(\text{Me}_2\text{CO})$  ( $40:1$ ,  $20:1$ ,  $10:1$ ,  $5:1$ ,  $1:1$ , v/v) and  $(\text{Me}_2\text{CO})$ , to yield fractions  $\text{A}_1\text{--}\text{A}_6$ . Fraction  $\text{A}_2$  ( $18.0 \text{ g}$ ) was chromatographed on a Si gel column again with petroleum ether/EtOAc ( $5:1$ ) and yielded **4** ( $3.8 \text{ g}$ ). Fraction  $\text{A}_3$  ( $10.2 \text{ g}$ ) was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography eluting with MeOH to give fractions  $\text{A}_3\text{B}_1$  ( $2.0 \text{ g}$ ),  $\text{A}_3\text{B}_2$  ( $4.8 \text{ g}$ ), and  $\text{A}_3\text{B}_3$  ( $2.5 \text{ g}$ ). Fraction  $\text{A}_3\text{B}_2$  was chromatographed on an ODS column with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $35:65$ ) to yield **1** ( $52 \text{ mg}$ ) and **8** ( $10 \text{ mg}$ ). Fraction  $\text{A}_3\text{B}_3$  was chromatographed on an ODS column with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $40:60$ ), then purified by HPLC with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $48:52$ ), to yield **2** ( $47 \text{ mg}$ ,  $t_R = 38.6 \text{ min}$ ). Fraction  $\text{A}_4$  ( $8.5 \text{ g}$ ) was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography eluting with MeOH and gave fractions  $\text{A}_4\text{C}_1$  ( $0.8 \text{ g}$ ),  $\text{A}_4\text{C}_2$  ( $1.2 \text{ g}$ ),  $\text{A}_4\text{C}_3$  ( $3.5 \text{ g}$ ), and  $\text{A}_4\text{C}_4$  ( $2.8 \text{ g}$ ). Fraction  $\text{A}_4\text{C}_2$  was purified by HPLC with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $38:62$ ) to yield **7** ( $35 \text{ mg}$ ,  $t_R = 43.2 \text{ min}$ ). Fraction  $\text{A}_4\text{C}_3$  was chromatographed on an ODS column with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $40:60$ ), then purified by HPLC with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $46:54$ ), to yield **5** ( $16 \text{ mg}$ ,  $t_R = 48.6 \text{ min}$ ) and **6** ( $21 \text{ mg}$ ,  $t_R = 52.8 \text{ min}$ ). Fraction  $\text{A}_4\text{C}_4$  was purified by HPLC with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $45:55$ ) to yield **3** ( $25 \text{ mg}$ ,  $t_R = 47.8 \text{ min}$ ).

**Illicioliganone A (1):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{25} -11.4$  ( $c$   $0.13$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$   $230$  (sh),  $260 \text{ nm}$ ; CD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ )  $231$  ( $1.62$ ),  $261$  ( $-2.51$ ),  $296$  ( $0.05$ ),  $336$  ( $-0.90$ )  $\text{nm}$ ; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$   $3448$ ,  $2971$ ,  $1744$ ,  $1672$ ,  $1339$ ,  $1130$ ,  $1042$ ,  $921 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data, see Table 1; ESIMS (positive)  $m/z$   $273.1$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ; HRFABMS (positive)  $m/z$   $273.1100$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$ ,  $273.1097$ ).

**Illicioliganone B (2):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -12.5$  ( $c$   $0.28$ , MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$   $245$ ,  $295 \text{ nm}$ ; CD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ )  $280$  ( $4.66$ ),  $329$  ( $-3.47$ )  $\text{nm}$ ; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$   $3422$ ,  $2976$ ,  $1675$ ,  $1615$ ,  $1409$ ,  $1180$ ,  $912 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data, see Table 1; ESIMS (positive)  $m/z$   $303.1$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ; HRESIMS (positive)  $m/z$   $281.1388$   $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_5$ ,  $281.1383$ ).

**Illicioliganone C (3):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -23.1$  ( $c$   $0.31$ , MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$   $248$ ,  $308 \text{ nm}$ ; CD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ )  $247$  ( $0.90$ ),  $282$  ( $0.74$ ),  $325$  ( $-4.14$ )  $\text{nm}$ ; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$   $3391$ ,  $2970$ ,  $1710$ ,  $1650$ ,  $1642$ ,  $1612$ ,  $1413$ ,  $1227$ ,  $826 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data, see Table 1; ESIMS (positive)  $m/z$   $303.1$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ; HRESIMS (positive) found  $281.1385$   $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_5$ ,  $281.1383$ ).

**Oligandriortholactone (7):** white, amorphous powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{25} +10.3$  ( $c$   $0.11$ , MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$   $3408$ ,  $2944$ ,  $1709$ ,  $1602$ ,  $1585$ ,  $1452$ ,  $1270$ ,  $913$ ,  $712 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data, see Table 2; ESIMS (positive)  $m/z$   $473.1$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ; HRESIMS (positive)  $m/z$   $473.1772$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_9\text{Na}$ ,  $473.1782$ ).

**Determination of Absolute Configuration of the 11,12-Diol Moieties in Compounds 2 and 3 by Sznatzke's Method.** Dimolybdenum tetracetate was purchased from Acros. DMSO of spectroscopy grade was purchased from Beijing Chemical Company, China, and dried with  $4 \text{ \AA}$  molecular sieves. According to the published approach,<sup>11</sup> ca.  $1:1$  diol/ $\text{Mo}_2(\text{OAc})_4$  mixtures were subjected to CD measurements of **2** and **3**, at concentrations of  $0.24$  and  $0.61 \text{ mg/mL}$ , respectively. The first CD spectrum was recorded immediately after mixing, and its time evolution was monitored until stationary (about  $30 \text{ min}$  after mixing). The inherent CD was subtracted. The observed sign of the diagnostic band at  $310 \text{ nm}$  in the induced CD spectrum was correlated to the absolute configuration of the 11,12-diol moiety.

**Anti-inflammatory Activity Assay.**<sup>16</sup> The anti-inflammatory activities of compounds **1–8** were assayed by measuring the inhibition of the platelet-activating factor (PAF)-induced release of  $\beta$ -glucuronidase from rat polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs) in vitro. Briefly, test compounds were dissolved in DMSO at a concentration of  $0.1 \text{ M}$  and diluted with RPMI-1640 to  $10^{-3} \text{ mol/L}$  when used. The suspension of rat PMNs ( $245 \mu\text{L}$ ) at a density of  $2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ cells mL}^{-1}$  and test samples ( $2.5 \mu\text{L}$ ) was incubated at  $37 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for  $15 \text{ min}$  and for another  $5 \text{ min}$  after the addition of  $1 \text{ mM}$  cytochalasin B ( $2.5 \mu\text{L}$ ). Subsequently  $2.5 \mu\text{L}$  of  $0.2 \mu\text{M}$  PAF was added. The reaction was terminated in an ice-bath after  $10 \text{ min}$ . The supernatant was obtained by centrifugation at  $4000 \text{ rpm}$  for  $5 \text{ min}$ . Then  $25 \mu\text{L}$  of supernatant and  $2.5 \text{ mM}$  phenolphthalein glucuronic acid ( $25 \mu\text{L}$ ) were incubated with  $100 \mu\text{L}$  of  $0.1 \text{ M}$  HOAc buffer ( $\text{pH } 4.6$ ) at  $37 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $5\% \text{ CO}_2$  for  $18 \text{ h}$ . The reaction was completed on addition of  $0.3 \text{ M}$  NaOH ( $150 \mu\text{L}$ ). The absorbance was read at  $550 \text{ nm}$ , and the inhibitory ratio (IR) was calculated as follows:  $\text{IR} (\%) = (A_{\text{PAF}} - A_i) / (A_{\text{PAF}} - A_c) \times 100\%$ , where  $A_{\text{PAF}}$ ,  $A_i$ , and  $A_c$  refer to the cell level of PAF, test compounds, and control groups, respectively. Ginkgolide B was used as the positive control.

**Acknowledgment.** This project was supported by the National Fund of Science for Distinguished Young Scholars (No. 30625040) and the '973' Project (No. 2004CB518906). The authors are grateful to the Department of Instrumental Analysis, Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, for measuring the IR, UV, NMR, and MS spectra.

**Supporting Information Available:** 1D and 2D NMR spectra of compounds **1**, **2**, **3**, and **7** and CD spectra of compounds **1**, **2**, and **3**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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NP9001702